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# THE TIMES

Review of the year,  
and Sporting  
Calendar for 1978

## Peace move in firemen's strike beaten by 14 to 1

The executive of the Fire Brigades Union yesterday rejected by 14 votes to one a call by moderates for a special delegate conference aimed at calling off the firemen's strike. The union will meet the Government and employers, probably on Tuesday, for the first tripartite talks since the strike began.

## First tripartite talks planned next week

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

The Fire Brigades Union executive voted 14 to one yesterday against recalling the national delegate conference that alone can end the firemen's seven-week strike. One executive member was absent.

The union will ask the TUC General Council to convene a congress to challenge the way the Government is interpreting the TUC's policy for an orderly return to free collective bargaining. Leaders of the FBUI are heartened by the narrow margin of 20 votes to 17 by which the general council rejected a call for a national campaign against the Cabinet's policy for limiting earnings increases to a tenth.

The union is to meet the Government and the local authority employers, probably on Tuesday, for the first tripartite talks since the stoppage began. It will reassert its willingness to forgo the employers' offer for a reduced working week from next November in return for more money now. In any case, the union believes it would be virtually impossible, because of training difficulties, to increase manpower by the necessary five thousand men to nine.

The original target for a pay rise of three tenths remains on the table but in the face of the Government's determination and the TUC's unwillingness to support the men, the figure is no longer regarded as inalienable.

The union will be looking for some movement from the employers and the Government on the timing of an award which has been offered. That would give a two-stage increase in 1978 and 1979, to take their pay up to the average skilled industrial worker's wage.

Mr Terence Parry, FBUI general secretary, said after the five-hour executive meeting in London last night: "We do not want to prolong the strike any longer than it has to be. The best step now is to get in the same room as the Government and the employers. Although constitutionally the Government is not involved in local authority negotiations, it is never far away."

Reports from the union's 14 regions yesterday left no doubt

## Healey hint on next stage of pay policy

By Michael Hefffield  
Political Reporter

Cabinet ministers will begin the new year with early discussions among themselves about the next stage of pay policy after the ending of phase three and the 12-month rule.

It was being emphasized last night that no conclusions are likely until March or the earliest, after which formal discussions with the unions will have to be opened.

A hint of what the Government has in mind is given by Mr Healey, the Chancellor, in an interview in the latest issue of *Socialist Commentary*. He states that the Government has a duty to give "the country some idea of the aggregate increase in earnings compatible with growth and keeping inflation under control."

"What would be desirable would be that the unions and employers negotiated 'within' rather than 'against' the distribution of increases. The Government of West Germany, Austria and some Scandinavian countries took that general view although they differed on implementation," he said.

Mr Healey said he would welcome talks within the unions and the employers' organizations on the best way for Britain to tackle the matter.

The Government cannot move too early on the next stage of pay policy because it must initiate unacceptable wage demands, which are still being negotiated under the present phase. For that reason there have been only informal discussions inside the Prime Minister's economic strategy committee. They are likely to continue for some weeks as it monitors the present pay round.

Cabinet ministers do not as yet see eye to eye on whether there should be a phase four, although the Prime Minister has made it known publicly that he is antipathetic to free collective bargaining.

While a further phase is expected, the argument among Cabinet ministers will revolve round its nature. Mr Healey, in his interview, said that "more and more people are coming to realize that no government can avoid having an incomes policy so far as its own employees are concerned."

It must have an attitude about what is the appropriate level of wage increases in the various parts of the public sector where it is either employer or paymaster. But, of course, to have a pay policy for the public sector and a free market in the private sector can be very unfair to the public sector."

On the firemen's case, Mr Healey says that "what the Government had offered would be based on a form of comparability, and that could be 'in' many parts of the public sector."

"In the extent that this is becoming inevitable, it is moving as perhaps more rapidly than we foresee towards a more general policy in the public sector, and raising the question of how you deal with the problems of the private sector."

## Mr Callaghan considers new plan for Treasury's role

By Peter Heonessy

The Prime Minister is considering a plan that could resolve the year-long debate about the future of the Treasury and the Civil Service Department. Mr Callaghan is attracted by the possibility of linking the two ministries through a common establishment organization.

Such a move would achieve many of his objectives without incurring the disruption the Prime Minister is at pains to avoid in the run-up to a general election. The concept of Treasury-CSD "condominium", as it is known in Whitehall, is a late addition to the options put before Mr Callaghan by his officials as he considers what reply to make to a report on the Civil Service published in September by the Commons Select Committee on Expenditure.

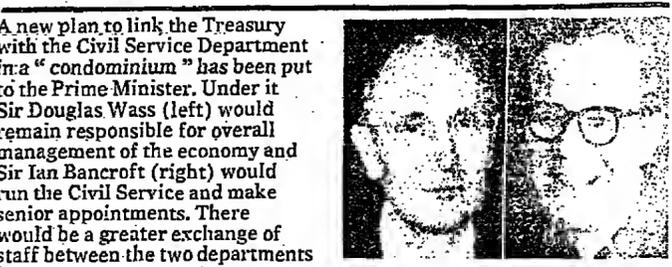
Under the condominium scheme, Sir Ian Bancroft, as Head of the Home Civil Service, would retain his own department and clear responsibility for running the Civil Service and making senior appointments. Similarly, Sir Douglas Wass, as Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, would remain the official primarily responsible for overall management of the economy.

There would, however, be a greater exchange of staff between the two departments and closer cooperation over policy making in areas of joint concern. In particular, Treasury management of public spending would be linked more closely with CSD control of manpower. Cooperation would also extend to other areas, such as Civil Service pay and management services.

Mr Callaghan has been concerned with the CSD's lack of impact in Whitehall, a deficiency for which it was also criticized by the expenditure committee. He is thought to believe that a closer liaison with the Treasury and an infusion of Treasury staff would buttress its influence in dealing with other departments.

The two ministries, if the scheme was adopted, would have a joint strength of 6,388 officials; 1,143 drawn from the Treasury and 5,145 from the CSD. A deputy secretary would probably be appointed to lead a common establishment division. Sir Ian and Sir Douglas, who get on well as former colleagues in the Treasury before it was split with the foundation of the CSD in 1968, would become involved in the day-to-day running of the new arrangement only in cases of exceptional difficulty.

The "common services" approach to departmental management was invented in March, 1974, by Sir Antony Part, when they were instructed by the incoming Prime Minister, Sir Harold Wilson, to break up the huge Department of Trade and Industry into three separate ministries.



A new plan to link the Treasury with the Civil Service Department in a "condominium" has been put to the Prime Minister. Under it Sir Douglas Wass (left) would remain responsible for overall management of the economy and Sir Ian Bancroft (right) would run the Civil Service and make senior appointments. There would be a greater exchange of staff between the two departments

Their solution of a joint establishment organization has had its critics. It has sometimes proved difficult, for example, to find agreement, especially over questions of to which ministry the best people should be appointed.

A Treasury-CSD condominium, however, would meet with relatively little resistance among top officials and ministers in Great George Street, unlike some previously canvassed options. Mr Healey, the Chancellor, made clear last spring, for example, that he would allow any move to take away the Treasury's general expenditure divisions and merge them with the manpower side of the CSD in a new department of management and Budget.

Sir Douglas Wass was equally opposed to the Treasury's reabsorbing the functions it lost in 1968.

The Prime Minister is most unlikely to make any fundamental change in the structure of the central departments. In a White Paper, expected in February, he is thought likely to choose either the status quo or to permit a significant reform of a Treasury-CSD condominium.

## US rebuff to Palestine state annoys Mr Sadat

By Our Foreign Staff

President Sadat said yesterday that he was "disappointed" with President Carter's statement on Wednesday night, indicating that he preferred limited autonomy for the West Bank to a full-fledged Palestinian state. Mr Sadat said he was "disappointed" with President Carter's statement on Wednesday night, indicating that he preferred limited autonomy for the West Bank to a full-fledged Palestinian state.

Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said that Mr Carter's remarks would help negotiations for a Middle East peace settlement and that the Israelis felt a Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan would threaten their security. The Israeli peace plan, known as the Knesset, on Wednesday, offers limited self-rule for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In an interview with television network correspondents late on Wednesday night, Mr Carter said that Mr Begin had taken a "long step forward" in offering self-rule to the Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr Carter said that he was "disappointed" in reaching a compromise.

Both Mr Begin and President Sadat were to be congratulated for their bold and courageous actions in seeking an overall peace settlement in the Middle East.

Mr Carter said, to try to resolve difficulties when they arose and to give advice and counsel when it was requested. The progress that had been made in recent weeks was "remarkable" and was greater than he had anticipated.

Asked how he thought Palestinian demands for rights on the West Bank should be met, Mr Carter repeated his own preference for a Palestinian homeland or entity, probably linked to Jordan, rather than an independent nation that permanent peace can best be maintained if there is not a fairly radical new independent nation in the heart of the Middle East.

He believed there was considerable room for bargaining by President Sadat within Mr Begin's tentative proposals for the West Bank. The number of Israeli troops, the length of time the initial agreement would be in force and the exact relationship of the West Bank towards Israel and Jordan were all open to discussion.

The President said that during his current overseas trip he would be exploring with King Hussein the role Jordan was willing to play in a peace settlement between Jordan and the West Bank.

Continued on page 4, col 4



New Year Tour: President Carter waving goodbye as he sets off for Poland on the first leg of his nine-day trip. On arrival in Warsaw yesterday he was welcomed by Mr Gierak, the Polish Communist leader. He will then travel on to Iran, India, Saudi Arabia, France and Belgium. In Warsaw, Poland's dissident Public Self-Defence Committee issued a statement saying it welcomed Mr Carter's visit because of the President's support for human and civil rights.

## Deadlock in Salisbury on votes for whites

From Frederick Cleary  
Salisbury, Dec. 29

The resumed Rhodesian settlement talks ended in deadlock in Salisbury tonight after three and a quarter hours of hard bargaining. The Rhodesian Government and the African National Council delegates cannot agree on the proportion of white representation in a future parliament under a majority rule government.

When asked after today's meetings whether the positions of the opposing sides could be reconciled, Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, said: "It is always possible to overcome problems. That is what we have, a problem. We must go on until we overcome it."

Asked how long this would take, he replied: "It might be over in one day. It might be over in one year."

Mr Smith looked somewhat dejected whereas the Rev Nicholas Sithole, leader of the faction of the African National Council known as the ANC (Sithole)—fairly heated assurance. When asked to comment on the talks, he said: "First, we are having a good go. We are satisfied with the progress."

A source close to the talks said that today's meeting was held once again in a cordial atmosphere but the talks had reached a "sticky" state.

It is understood that Mr Smith is holding out for a third of parliamentary seats to be reserved for whites to give them a blocking mechanism when it comes to voting on constitutional issues. The ANC (Sithole) wants white representation to be restricted to a fifth of the seats. The United African National Council, led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, said to accept the Government's demand for a third of the seats but rejects Mr Smith's idea of separate voters' rolls.

Mr Sithole has no objection to separate rolls.

The talks resume on Tuesday.

## Crashes rise at 'mini' roundabouts

By Our Motoring Correspondent

The conversion from large to "mini" roundabouts at road junctions has almost doubled the number of accidents, according to a report by the government-supported Transport and Road Research Laboratory.

At roundabouts where the size of the central island has been drastically reduced, all accidents increased by 91 per cent, and those involving fatal and serious injuries by 200 per cent.

The report says the figures emphasize the need for care in converting the old-style roundabout. In particular, crossing movements must be adequately deflected. The report observes that present design recommendations lay down criteria for achieving that.

But where mini roundabouts have been introduced at junctions previously controlled either by the road priority or by traffic lights, accidents have been markedly reduced.

At junctions where mini roundabouts have replaced traffic lights fall and serious accidents fell by 62 per cent. At sites formerly subject to priority control there was a 34 per cent drop in all accidents and a 46 per cent reduction in those involving fatal and serious injury.

## Loser in Scottish miners' ballot resigns position

Mr David Bolton, one of the defeated candidates in the recent ballot for the general secretaryship of the Scottish area of the National Union of Mineworkers, has resigned as area vice-president. He was displaced yesterday by Mr Michael McGabrey, general secretary until his death earlier this year, had given their support to other candidates.

More than a thousand miners from Scottish collieries, near Dumfries, Effe, campaigned their overtime ban yesterday in pursuit of a local productivity agreement.

A petition signed by 35,000 people against coal board plans to mine in the Vale of Belvoir, Nottinghamshire, will be presented to the Prime Minister soon.

## EEC to publish floor prices on steel imports

Minimum prices for some 140 steel imports into the European Community will be announced today. It is believed they will be on average about 7 per cent below the Community's internal guideline prices. Steel companies will be prohibited from aligning prices on cheaper imports, although the competitive edge of foreign suppliers will be less keen than in recent months. Page 15

## Finns buy UK planes in £100m barter deal

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

In one of the most unusual deals in the history of the British aircraft industry, British Aerospace yesterday sold 50 Hawk trainer aircraft worth £100m to Finland and undertook to market Finnish products to a similar amount.

British Aerospace has in fact already placed some £30m worth of the offer goods, which include vodka, earbuds, equipment, and liquorice sweets, and expects to move the lot within three years.

The goods are being sold through British Aerospace sales offices around the world. "Shifting goods from Finland is now the second highest priority when our salesmen go out to meet customers", an aircraft industry executive said yesterday.

It is expected that most of the offer goods will be sold abroad. They are already finding enthusiastic buyers in North America but will also find their way to countries where Finnish salesmen have seldom penetrated in the past.

In addition to the items mentioned, the long list will include a wide range of machinery and wood products, gliders, ear protectors, television sets, copper and zinc, and prefabricated housing.

The offer deal was an important factor in the choice

## Beaches polluted by collision of supertankers

Port Elizabeth, Dec. 29—The worst oil pollution ever known off the South African coastline has hit beaches and destroyed marine life up to 250 miles west of here as a result of the collision on December 16 between the two American-owned supertankers, Venoli and Venpet.

Government pollution experts today flew along the coast to examine a slick several miles long lying just beyond the Cape beaches—Agece France-Fresse.

## Malta letter bomb kills schoolgirl

The daughter of a doctor has been killed and his wife and son have been injured by a letter bomb in Malta. Dr Edwin Grech's daughter, Karen, was home for Christmas from her school in England. A letter bomb was also sent to another doctor but it did not explode. Page 3

## Dollar falls on news of Fed appointment

The dollar lost ground on foreign exchanges yesterday as dealers reacted to the news that Mr William Miller is to replace Dr Arthur Burns as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board at the end of January. Sterling continued to climb, reaching \$1.9275 at one time. Page 15

## Paris 'vote rigging'

Mitterrand, the French Socialist leader, has accused the Government of attempting to rig the votes of Frenchmen resident abroad. He claims that the blank postal proxy votes of Frenchmen living in Gabon have been handed to a pro-Government organization. Page 3

## Malta letter bomb kills schoolgirl

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## Spain: Basques suspected of hijacking second van with explosives

British 'Brokings': The Ford Foundation is considering investing in a London institute for studying how government policies work, similar to the one in Washington. Page 4

## Korchnoi ultimatum

Viktor Korchnoi, the self-exiled Russian grandmaster, threatened to withdraw from his world chess championship qualifying match against Boris Spassky unless spectators were excluded. Page 4

## School discipline

Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Conservative spokesman on education, says schools need firmer discipline and higher moral standards to provide for a modern industrial society. Page 2

## Paper tiger survives

The Equal Opportunities Commission, set up two years ago, has survived some sharp criticism. It has a promising record of achievement on behalf of women despite a gibe about being a "paper tiger". Page 3

## Food: The British herring catch this year was the lowest this century; the price was the highest

Northern Ireland: Mr Mason, the Secretary of State, in a new year message to the people of the province, says the tide has turned against terrorism. Page 3

## We might even manage a smile in 1978

As consultants in property management and investment we tend to be rather serious people. But 12 months ago to the day, in this very spot, we shot a little ray of optimism through the prevailing economic gloom. And right on target it was too. Since last December 30th, the property market has improved quite dramatically. We are certainly doing more letting, selling, buying, investing, developing and managing than ever before. We might even manage a smile in 1978.



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HOME NEWS

'The Good Old Days' becomes longest-running light entertainment show

Music-hall story starts on twenty-fifth year



Mr Barney Coleban (centre), producer of 'The Good Old Days', and Mr Leonard Sachs (second left), its coupere, celebrating its anniversary with Ken Dodd (fourth right), regular members of the cast, and Mr Coleban's secretary (second right).

By Kenneth Goshing

Mr Barney Coleban will produce his 25th anniversary of 'The Good Old Days' tomorrow after Match of the Day. Next month he launches the programme on its twenty-fifth year, the longest-running light entertainment show in the world, the BBC says.

in period costume such modern artists as Ken Dodd, Morecambe and Wise, and Roy Castle and Dora Bryan. Leonard Sachs links the acts as the allusive chairman baying followed Don Gemmill into the chair after the first couple of shows.

The purists will say there was never a chairman for Edwardian music-hall, but we needed someone to link and introduce the acts, Mr Coleban says. The acts have changed but not the format and it seems anachronistic to have stars of stage, radio and television playing to not merely a few hundred people but millions, he has an answer to that, too.

close down the theatres and you are never going to get the artists. Where are they supposed to learn their trade? If the owners do not want them, Mr Dodd says, the theatres should be run by trusts, and that is an area where the Theatres Trust has already shown it will play an important part. He has played in 20 of the shows. It is very like a pension scheme, I call it 'Barney's plan'.

Woman who slapped man loses case

An industrial tribunal in Birmingham has ruled that it was gross misconduct for a woman to slap a man on the face. It said yesterday that Mrs Florence Marshall, aged 54, a factory worker, was out of order when she slapped the man after she had lost her temper with him. The tribunal said her action was against the "charter for employees" operated by the company, BRD Company, of Aldridge, Staffordshire. It agreed with the company that the violence amounted to gross misconduct and that the company was not liable for her dismissal.

Terrorist tide has turned, Mr Mason tells Ulster

The change in security is noted in a new year message from Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to the people of the province yesterday. Bombings were down by three fifths, there were markedly fewer deaths and a record number of people had been charged and convicted of serious crimes, he said. There can be no doubt that the tide has turned against the terrorists. The Government had killed for ever the myth of economic withdrawal, it was concerned with the quality of life and was determined that there could be no second-class citizens. "But," Mr Mason continued, "this is not yet enough. The commission of crime is still a major problem and its consequences afflict the community."

In brief

Man with garotte discharged. Terence Downey, aged 18, who said he carried a wire garotte to his trousers, turned up in the hands of the police in Cologne area without knowing of each other. They were born in a concentration camp in East Prussia to which their parents had been sent for helping Jews. They were taken away from the parents and entrusted in different people who fled from East Prussia to West Germany in 1945 and 1946 respectively. The younger of the two wrote to the Red Cross inquiring about her sister. Skateboarders warned. Skateboarders in Sheffield face prosecution if the persistently defying police warnings to stop in residential streets and subways. Publisher divorced. The wife of Mr Anthony Francis John Crosthwaite-Eyre, aged 37, the publisher, was granted a decree nisi by consent in London yesterday. Lampreys return. Lampreys have been reported in the Trent after the absence of sixty years near Newark, Nottinghamshire.

Equal Opportunities Commission survives criticism from left and right Solid achievements for women despite gibes

By Anabel Ferriman. Since the Equal Opportunities Commission came into being two years ago yesterday it has been assailed by the left for not doing enough and by the right for existing at all. Employers see it as the bureaucratic arm of unnecessary legislation and many Conservatives as a huge waste of taxpayers' money. Some would like to kill the 120-headed monster, which this year is up to E15m. Critics on the left point out that the new Commission on Racial Equality has initiated as many formal investigations in its first six months as the other commission has in the past two years. The opportunities commission was set up at the end of 1975 to monitor the equal pay and sex discrimination Acts, to work towards the elimination of discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity between men and women generally. The main criticism levelled at it is that it has not made enough use of its statutory powers, particularly its power to conduct formal investigations into businesses or organisations suspected of discriminating. The two investigations it has set up, into Tameside education authority, Greater Manchester, and Electrolux Ltd of Luton, were more or less forced on it by angry parents in the first case and by a High Court judge in the second. Tameside parents complained of discrimination against girls, because one of the two local primary schools offering places in 1976 was reserved for boys. It took the commission 14 months to return a verdict of "not guilty," on the ground that the Sex Discrimination Act included single-sex schools. The investigators could consider only the mixed grammar school, which that year took more girls than boys.

The investigation, however, showed up the Act's weaknesses and at least one commissioner now feels that the Act needs strengthening on single-sex institutions. The second investigation was wished on the commission by Mr Justice Phillips, President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, who suggested it be remembered that the device of a formal investigation, under which the commissioners can call witnesses and issue non-discrimination notices with the power of law, was new when the commission was established. The Commission on Racial Equality, in contrast, has been able to benefit from the other commission's experience. One school of thought among the 15 commissioners, moreover, prefers persuasion to compulsion and believes that steady work behind the scenes can be just as effective as open investigations. But that idea has waned in the past few months and the commissioners recently decided on four or five investigations a year, starting possibly with a look at credit facilities. Some of the commission's most valuable work has been in giving legal advice and assistance to people who want to use the two Acts. It has helped 76 cases, including one that went to the House of Lords. A body of case law has been developed which has clarified many instances of the Acts. For example, the case of Mrs Catherine Roberts v the Cleve-

land Area Health Authority established that the Sex Discrimination Act did not make compulsory retirement of women at 60 unlawful, although men do not have to retire until 65. In monitoring the Acts the commission has found defects. Under the Equal Pay Act a woman cannot bring a case against her employer unless she can be compared with a man doing "like work." This presents a difficulty because so many women do all-female jobs. The commission is also considering whether to recommend a new clause in the Equal Pay Act outlawing indirect as well as direct discrimination. The Sex Discrimination Act has such a clause, which was used in the case of Price v the Civil Service Department. Mrs Belinda Price won her claim that the Civil Service recruiting age limit of 28 indirectly discriminated against women because during their twenties women were busy having children. Such a clause in the Equal Pay Act might affect company rules on pensions and other matters covered by an employee's contract that are not covered by the sister Act. Apart from investigations, legal case work and monitoring the Acts, the commission has submitted evidence to royal commissions on the health service and on income distribution and wealth and is about to submit evidence to the Royal Commission on Legal Services. It has published proposals for reforming the tax laws, guidance for advertisers, and a consultative document on retirement age. In May the commissioners discussed taxation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. They have met the Secretary of State for Education and Science several times to discuss dis-

crimination in students' grants, in the school curriculum and in education cuts. The list does not satisfy the commission's critics, however, who feel that the commission is a paper tiger. The National Council for Civil Liberties would like a tougher attitude to employers who are evading the Acts, while Rights of Women, a collective of women lawyers, would like the commission to make more noise, arguing that if its work came more into the public eye more women would make use of the Acts. Both groups would welcome the appointment of some younger and more radical commissioners. Since the resignation of Mrs Caroline Woodroffe, chairman of the Brook Advisory Centre, there has been no woman commissioner under 40. Some potential commissioners are discouraged by the commission's location in Manchester, which is frustrating for those living in London. Two commissions have left this year because they could not attend regularly. Staffing difficulties have dogged the commission's history; it had to operate during the first six months without a chief executive and for the first year without a senior legal officer. Some of the permanent staff resented the slowness with which the commissioners moved, while the commissioners were not always happy with the staff's standard of work. The situation appears to be improving. It is rumoured that the Home Office intends to appoint a tough young woman to replace Mrs Woodroffe; many of the staffing difficulties have been solved and some of the initial distrust between staff and commissioners has disappeared. Now that its initial difficulties are over, the proper tiger may become an animal of more substance.

WEST EUROPE

Officials planning fraudulent use of postal votes by Frenchmen living abroad, M Mitterrand says

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Dec 29. M Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist Party leader, bluntly accused the Government today of making preparations to rig the votes of about a million Frenchmen resident abroad. He claimed at a press conference that the documents already in the possession of his party made it possible to institute proceedings against officials "guilty of electoral fraud." Although at this stage documentary evidence published in the press points to only one case of fraud, the affair shows signs of developing into a major political scandal. And, if other cases are proven by the courts, they will cast suspicion on the results of the parliamentary elections next March. In many marginal constituencies the postal proxy votes of Frenchmen resident abroad could be decisive. The Socialist leader read out the text of a written question to the Prime Minister asking for information about the steps taken by the Government in put and end to this fraud, which, he alleged, was being carried out under cover by the French authorities. He referred to a confidential telegram, published by the satirical weekly Le Canard Enchaîné, from the French Ambassador to Gabon to the Foreign Ministry at the beginning of this month, informing it of the arrival in Paris of a representative of French residents in the country bearing 1,650 blank postal

proxy votes destined for the headquarters of the Rassemblement des Français de l'Etranger, a Gaullist organization; and of the dispatch a fortnight later of two other batches of blank proxy votes. "This is nothing more than a racket," M Mitterrand declared. "It involves the collection through the channel of French embassies and consulates abroad of blank proxy votes, and their distribution among the parties of the government majority among those constituencies where the results of the municipal elections, last March, showed a parliamentary seat was threatened by the advance of the left." The trouble goes back to an amendment of the electoral law last July, described by M Mitterrand as "pregnant with abuses," which eased the formalities of voting by proxy for Frenchmen resident abroad. Under the previous system, they could only vote by proxy in those municipalities where they were registered as voters through a locally registered voter. This provoked the complaint that Frenchmen abroad were treated as second class citizens. Under the new law, they can register as a voter in any municipality with a population of over 30,000 and give their proxy vote to another person already registered in that municipality. But the number of such proxy votes is limited to two per cent of the total number of registered voters. The publication of the telegram from the French Amb-

sador to Libreville provoked an embarrassed reaction from the Quai d'Orsay, the French Ministry, yesterday, and another statement today, emphasizing that an official mission of investigation had already been sent out to Gabon. The statement said the ministry was taking a very serious of the abuse of consular privileges through the issue of blank proxy votes. "Any irregularities that might have occurred in Gabon in no way justify doubt being cast on the neutrality of Foreign Ministry officials," it added. M Mitterrand said the complete dossier on similar irregularities would be published by the Socialist Party after the closing of electoral registers on December 31. But he recalled that M Gaston Defferre, the leader of the Socialist parliamentary party, had at the close of the parliamentary session protested against a circular sent by a government party to French residents in the Ivory Coast calling on them to vote usefully. They were urged to register in a constituency of Marseilles, and one of Montpellier, where the Socialist candidates were elected by margins of 1,600 and 900 votes respectively. They were urged to register in a constituency of Marseilles, and one of Montpellier, where the Socialist candidates were elected by margins of 1,600 and 900 votes respectively. They were urged to register in a constituency of Marseilles, and one of Montpellier, where the Socialist candidates were elected by margins of 1,600 and 900 votes respectively.

France buys papers of Napoleon's brother

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Dec 29. The French National Archives have just acquired the private archives of Joseph Bonaparte, King of Spain and brother of Napoleon, which were seized by British troops in the king's travelling carriage at the battle of Vitoria in 1813. The archives were sold by the eighth Duke of Wellington to the French National Archives last month after negotiations lasting almost a year, for 1,100,000 francs (about £122,000). King Joseph's archives have not been hitherto used by historians. They are expected to shed light on the government of Spain under Napoleon, on the relations between Napoleon and his brother, and on the peninsular war from the French standpoint as well as on the Kingdom of Naples, which Joseph Bonaparte ruled until 1808. The collection consists of 37 box files captured at Vitoria, and a black canteen which contains letters from the king and other dignitaries to Napoleon, intercepted by the British forces or by Spanish insurgents and never read by the addressee. King Joseph took his archives with him when he travelled, regarding Madrid as unsafe. King Joseph, particularly in a letter dated 1813, is remarkably clear minded about the situation of the French in Spain. He states that if Madrid is lost, the whole edifice of French rule will collapse. He also expresses his difficulties with his marshals, especially Soult. The collection includes also the rolls of the Grand Army in Spain, and a large number of documents on the financing of French troops. There are no diplomatic papers as King Joseph did not have a diplomacy of his own. Relations with foreign countries were run centrally from Paris.

Sisters born in concentration camp reunited

From Our Correspondent Berlin, Dec 29. Two sisters born in 1940 and 1941 respectively and separated soon afterwards have found each other with the help of the International Red Cross search service for missing persons. Both Frau Irmgard Marmaras and Frau Gertrud Henning spent the past 30 years in the Cologne area without knowing of each other. They were born in a concentration camp in East Prussia to which their parents had been sent for helping Jews. They were taken away from the parents and entrusted in different people who fled from East Prussia to West Germany in 1945 and 1946 respectively. The younger of the two wrote to the Red Cross inquiring about her sister.

Letter bomb kills daughter of doctor in Malta

From Our Correspondent Valletta, Dec 29. A doctor's strike has now lasted seven months. Karen had returned home for the Christmas holiday from her convent school in England. Athens, Dec 29.—A letter bomb addressed to the Bulgarian consulate here went off in the hands of a postman. The letter was addressed to Mr Sergei Trochin, the Bulgarian Consul, and carried anti-communist slogans. Responsibility for the attack was claimed by an extreme right-wing group, the Greek National Socialist Organisation, which had admitted responsibility for a series of letter bomb attacks. Among those sent bombs were the American Embassy, the headquarters of a local Jewish group and an office of the Greek Communist Party—AP and Agence France-Presse.

Belgian gang led by boy of eight

Liege, Dec 29.—Police have arrested a gang of seven boys aged eight to 15 who stole 90,000 francs (about £1,385) worth of toys and clothes. The gang leader, aged eight, was parading through the town wearing a 27,000 franc fur coat and carrying two guns. Police said he was terrorizing his mates and forcing them to steal—AP.

Stay over advertisement for MAS DC-10-30 flights. Text includes: 'Stay over', 'Or how to schedule yourself some relaxation', 'On your way to Asia\* or Australia\* stopover in Malaysia. No matter how tight your schedule, it's a relaxing and inexpensive break in an arduous journey.', 'For as long as five days, for just £4 per night, you can discover fascinating Kuala Lumpur. Or for a little extra (airfares only) explore the sweeping beaches of Penang, or the swirling, busy, multi-cultural city of Singapore.', 'At the end of it all you settle back relaxed and refreshed in the roomy MAS DC-10-30 for the rest of your flight. And enjoy all over again famous MAS Golden Service.', 'Ask your Travel Agent or MAS office for the exclusive details of our Stopover Holidays.', 'With connections at Kuala Lumpur', 'Fewer seats and more room than any other DC-10. And there's always someone there when you need her.', 'Fly with a Touch of Gold', 'mas', 'malaysian airline system', '25-27, St. George St., Hanover Square, London W1', 'Tel: 01-629-5891/4'.

WEST EUROPE

Basques suspected of hijacking second van with explosives

From William Chislett Madrid, Dec 29. Basque extremists struck for the second consecutive day today, hijacking a van containing 600lb of explosives...

Basque sources close to ETA as saying that ETA has started a new phase of its campaign directed against "all those industrial and social centres corrupted by the old regime and which attack the Basque society"...

Vote for death penalty

Madrid, Dec 29.—A proposal to abolish the death penalty in Spain was voted down in the Upper House of the Cortes.

Dr Soares looking for allies

From Our Correspondent Lisbon, Dec 29. Dr Mario Soares today began consultations on forming a new Portuguese government to succeed the Socialist administration...

British tourists die in Belgian motorway crash

Antwerp, Dec 29.—Three young Britons were killed last night on the Brussels-Antwerp motorway. Belgian police said their car crashed into a concrete lamp post.

Dr Soares's first consultation today was with Dr Freitas do Amaral, the leader of the Christian Democrats. After a two-hour conversation, Dr Amaral stated that the new Government must be based on "personalities with the support of a parliamentary majority"...



Porsche 928: first sports car to win the award.

Porsche 928 voted car of the year

By Our Motoring Correspondent. The Porsche 928 has been voted car of the year by an international jury of motoring writers. It is the first time since the creation of the award in 1962 that a sports car has been honoured.

versions will be available to Britain early in the summer at a projected price of £18,750. Princes Rainier of Monaco will present the award at a ceremony in Monte Carlo on January 26.

Iran firms ban trade with Italy and Danes

Teheran, Dec 29.—Iranian companies said today they have stopped trading with Denmark and Italy after attacks on Iranian diplomatic missions in both countries.

Communists fail to take power in San Marino

San Marino, Dec 29.—San Marino's Communists tonight gave up an attempt to regain power in this tiny mountain state as they are just one parliamentary vote short of forming Western Europe's only Communist Government.

Iranian students opposed to the Sab

The semi-official Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines said the companies were angered by the intensity with which the strikers were treated. They have imposed an indefinite suspension on purchases from either Italy or Denmark.

Italian crisis

Uli Schmitzer reports on the crisis of growing numbers and rising violence in Italy's universities in The Times Higher Education Supplement today. Michael Rosenthal reviews a new two-volume catalogue of Turner's paintings, Peter Nokes discusses sincerity in the social sciences, and the issue includes a review of 1977.

OVERSEAS

Oil cutbacks lie behind Mr Carter's tour

From David Cross Washington, Dec 29. President Carter left here today on the first leg of his second overseas tour since he took office nearly a year ago.

Before leaving Washington under a clear but bitterly cold sky shortly after sunrise, he told reporters outside the White House that in all the places he visited he would be reaffirming "our dedication to peace and our support of justice and of human rights"...

Asked whether in the light of Mr Carter's statement he still believed a settlement of the conflict within two months was possible, the Egyptian leader said: "It may be delayed for some time. But I think that quelling 1978 as a year of decision is not an exaggeration."



A bomb, apparently planted by Palestinian guerrillas, in the Israeli coastal town of Netanya yesterday killed two people and injured two others. Eight Arabs were held for questioning.

Mr Sadat says peace treaty may be delayed

Continued from page 1. Asked whether in the light of Mr Carter's statement he still believed a settlement of the conflict within two months was possible, the Egyptian leader said: "It may be delayed for some time. But I think that quelling 1978 as a year of decision is not an exaggeration."

Mr Sadat said in Cairo that President Carter's remarks "may delay for some time" the signing of a peace agreement. "I am disappointed because I should like us to put all our efforts towards ending the suffering in the Middle East and giving a bright future to our next generations," Mr Sadat said in an interview with the American Broadcasting Corporation.

Government sources said that Mr Kamal plans to go to Jerusalem on January 14 to participate in the first session of a political committee set up by President Sadat and Mr Begin at their talks last weekend to discuss Egyptian working out counter-proposals to the Israeli peace plan, they said.

Ford Foundation thinks of 'British Brookings'

From David Walker Washington, Dec 29. Substantial American investment in studies of how British government policies work is being considered by the Ford Foundation.

Heated debate on Turkish censure motion

From Our Correspondent Ankara, Dec 29. The Turkish National Assembly today debated the censure motion against Mr Demirel's Government in a brief but heated session.

Japan plans expansion to cut payments surplus

From Peter Hazelhurst Tokyo, Dec 29. Japan will spend more on defence, foreign aid and public works next year in an attempt to stimulate domestic business and reduce the nation's embarrassing balance of payments surplus.

Swede disputes reports of Khmer atrocities

Stockholm, Dec 29.—Mr Jean Christophe Oberg, a Swedish diplomat, who recently spent two days travelling in Cambodia, has challenged the objective reports of refugee atrocities since the Khmer Rouge takeover two and a half years ago.

Gierek plan to allay consumers' discontent and provide a wider choice of goods

From Sue Masterman Warsaw. "My local food shop normally has four assistants. On average two are pregnant and the other two just bore lazy. Time and again we find the shop closed, with a notice on the door which says 'Closed because of illness'."

US agency criticized over lack of silo safety rules

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Dec 29. Federal safety and agricultural experts are working out safety guidelines for grain-handling installations, four of which have exploded recently, killing at least 50 people.

Sweden disputes reports of Khmer atrocities

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Poland turns to private trading

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Chile quits talks on claim to Cape Horn islands

From Our Correspondent Buenos Aires, Dec 29. Talks between Argentina and Chile over an apparent Chilean attempt to claim a 200-mile exclusive economic zone in waters hitherto controlled by Argentina off Tierra del Fuego and Cape Horn, abruptly came to a halt amid growing doubts in Buenos Aires that the issue can be amicably settled.

Korchnoi threatens to quit match against Spassky

Belgrade, Dec 29.—Viktor Korchnoi, the self-proclaimed Russian grandmaster, today threatened to withdraw from his world chess championship qualifying match against Boris Spassky.

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In brief

US-Seoul deal on Mr Park

Seoul, Dec 29.—South Korea and the United States are in an agreement tomorrow allowing Mr Tongsun Park, the key figure in the alleged Korean bribery of American congressmen, to go to Washington to give evidence early in the new year, official sources said here.

£26m drug haul

Miami, Dec 29.—About 75 tons of marijuana worth at least \$50m (£26.3m) in street value was unloaded from two vessels seized by the United States Coast Guard near the Bahamas.

Democrat nominee

Washington, Dec 29.—President Carter has recommended that Mr John White, the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, should be appointed national chairman of the Democratic Party to succeed Mr Ken Curtis, a former governor of Maine.

Freedom mystery

Islamabad, Dec 29.—The Pakistan Government withdrew an announcement about the release of more than 11,000 political prisoners within a few hours after it was issued in the press. No reason was given.

Shot black dies

Port Elizabeth, Dec 29.—Mr Mthubuzeli Hushu, aged 23, a black pop group manager, has died after being shot by riot police during disturbances in the New Brighton township near here.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'SPORT', 'Boyc', 'Engla', 'bat a', 'Sofraz', 'Polista', 'Three ch', 'ty to sa', 'Lada's Division', 'Lobby Union', 'Attack of', 'Burrey's e'.

SPORT

Cricket
Boycott to captain
England and
bat at number six

From John Woodcock.
Cricket Correspondent.
Labore, Dec 29.
Mr David Clark and Mr Jack Bailey...

As things stand at the moment there is no possibility of Australia including in their team...

Sarfraz hoping to play for Pakistan in second Test

Sarfraz Nawaz was still in London yesterday, but he had given up hope of playing for Pakistan in the second Test against England...

Three changes as India try to save Test series

Melbourne, Dec 29.—India, in an effort to save the series, have made three changes to their team for the third Test match against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground...

Today's fixtures

SECOND DIVISION: Fulham v Oldham Athletic 17.30.
THIRD DIVISION: Tranmere Rovers v Walsley 17.30.

Rugby Union

Attack of butterfingers hits schoolboys

By Nicholas Keith.
Middlesex Schools 6 Kent Schools 6
A nasty outbreak of butterfingers has occurred at schools in the London area...

Surrey's early promise goes unfulfilled

By Gordon Allan.
Eastern Counties 18 Surrey 6
Eastern Counties beat Surrey by a goal and three tries to a penalty goal...

Football

Buckley set to follow road to Villa Park

Steve Buckley, the Luton Town left back, is set to follow in the footsteps of Bruce Bann and Chris Nicholl...

Millwall's offer to Haslam

Luton Town's manager, Harry Haslam, was yesterday considering an offer, believed to be worth nearly £100,000 over five years...

Bell continues comeback while Tueart returns

Manchester City's England international, Colin Bell, will continue his comeback in the match with Villa at Maine Road tomorrow...

Netherlands unlikely to be seeded in World Cup

Rio de Janeiro, Dec 29.—Joao Havelange, president of the International Football Association (FIFA), said here that he believed Italy would be one of the four seeded nations...

Armfield is not surprised

Jimmy Armfield, the manager of Leeds United, said that Nottingham Forest were clearly the team to beat in the match against Ipswich...

Chelsea sell-out

Chelsea have sold all 17,500 reserved seats for the FA Cup third round match against Ipswich on January 7.

Broken time payments the thin end of a dangerous wedge

By Peter West.
As one blathered enough not to have foreseen the arrival on the cricket scene of Mr Kerry Packard...

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Swimming



Youth splasht: How to occupy the holidays has been no problem this week for the parents of England's national youth swimming team...

Hockey India beset by complex selection worries

New Delhi, Dec 29.—India are facing their usual problems over the selection of a hockey team for the World Cup tournament...

Russians introduce stricter tests to detect steroids

Moscow, Dec 29.—A top Russian sports official disclosed today that stricter checks have been introduced to prevent Russian athletes...

POOL PROMOTERS ASSOCIATION CERTIFIED PPA DIVIDENDS. All dividends are subject to rescuing. FOR MATCHES PLAYED DECEMBER 24TH/26TH. VERNONS POOLS, LIVERPOOL. Happy New Year! Go for a £1 MILLION WIN in 1978. 8 GOES A PENNY TREBLE CHANCE.

LITTLEWOODS POOLS, LIVERPOOL. THE WEEKS 7 TOP WINNERS. THE TREBLE CHANCE PAYING 6 DIVIDENDS. 24 PTS ..... £81,956-45. 23 PTS ..... £673-55. 22 PTS ..... £317-55. 21 PTS ..... £41-25. 20 PTS ..... £27-85. 19 PTS ..... £4-20. OUR BEST WISHES FOR A RECORD 25th WIN IN 1978! THE WORLD'S EASIEST TREBLE CHANCE. 24 pts ... £10,300.30 for 1/25p. 23 pts ... £68.50. 22 pts ... £41.00. 21 pts ... £4.95.

SPORT

Tennis
Lloyd banks
£10,000 by
staying on
in the sun

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

The last month of 1977 has produced notable achievements by two British tennis players...



Lloyd yesterday: looking backwards to Christmas and towards the semi-final round of the Australian Open.

Between 1967 and 1975 Newcombe established himself as the last of that great breed of players capable of winning singles and doubles events...

Lloyd sprang to prominence at Wimbledon by beating the fourth seed, Roscoe Tanner...

Tanner at Wimbledon and therefore expected a tough match, particularly as he was feeling too good...

Lloyd said after the match that once he had broken service he felt that Newcombe would have to play well to beat him...

Britain's other hope, Robin Drysdale, could not match Lloyd's form...

NEWBY SINGLES: Quarter-finalists: Australia's John Lloyd (1st), Roscoe Tanner (2nd), Robin Drysdale (3rd), and John Alexander (4th)...

Racing
Persian Crown could pick up a consolation prize at Newbury

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

With £2,000 added, the Challow Hurdle is the most valuable race on the programme at Newbury today...

Today's field includes three of those who have been beaten by him this season, and it will be interesting to see how they fare in his absence...

Atlantic Bridge and Boatrace are two interesting newcomers to the programme...

is now with David Barons in the West Country. Last spring, Boatrace won the valuable KYZ Handicap at Newbury...

One has to flick back the pages to 1956 to find the last novice to win the Champion Hurdle...

STATE OF CHING (official): Leicester, Steeplechase, good; Hurdles, fair; Flat, Newbury, fair; Worcester, poor; Canterbury, Bridge and Worcester, poor.

Trainer and son asked to explain success

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

The resounding victory of Gay Sparzan under top weight in the Mollington Handicap Steeplechase at Warwick yesterday...

They were asked about the difference in running and their explanation was accepted...

Now six years old, Criticism added a fencing victory to a success over hurdles and a win on the flat...

extended three and a half mile race and, despite a mistake three fences out, still managed to strike the post...

Rambling Jack succeeds as Tamalin disappoints

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Gordon Richards, the grey-streaked trainer, was in sparkling form with a double via Justafancy and Sio Lion at Newbury yesterday...

Under the name of Rambling Jack, the first leg of a double for Jonjo O'Neill...

made all the running. The son of Major Hubert Baddeley and his mother, is highly regarded by Ken Oliver, his trainer...

Miss Austin may be in American side

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Tracy Austin, the 15-year-old American tennis player, who made a spectacular first appearance at Wimbledon in the summer...

of under-21 internationals, which is regarded as the most competitive tennis event...

Miss Austin, the 15-year-old American tennis player, who made a spectacular first appearance at Wimbledon...

Kent to train promising Colonel Parker

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Derek Kent, who is Chichester's first professional tennis player...

His association with Hector Macdonald goes back 30 years when he had horses with my old gunner...

Newcastle results

Table of racing results from Newcastle, including various horse races and their winners.

Leicester programme

Table of racing results from Leicester, including various horse races and their winners.

Ashes fought against tragic background

By Richard Streaton

A number of cricket books on the Ashes are due to reach the bookshops shortly...

ment on the season, without shirking the fuller statistical section that is its rival...

There have not been too many books using dual text in cricket publishing, and it is a method with more to commend it...

Newbury programme

Table of racing results from Newbury, including various horse races and their winners.

Latest European snow reports

Table of snow reports from various European locations, including depth, conditions, and weather.

Rugby League

Hull lose their coach after 17 years

David Doolittle-Darlington, coach of Hull Rugby League team, has resigned after 17 years with the Humber-side club...

Evans scores three tries in Featherstone's win

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Featherstone 21, Dewsbury 11. Steven Evans, a stand-off half, scored three tries in this comfortable victory...

Warwick

Table of racing results from Warwick, including various horse races and their winners.

Yachting

The white-bullied Kialoa II crosses the line after a gripping struggle in the 630-mile race.

Kialoa II finishes 16 miles ahead of rival. The white-bullied Kialoa II crosses the line after a gripping struggle in the 630-mile race...

Newbury selections

Table of racing selections from Newbury, listing horses and their odds.

Singleton's comeback

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Joey Singleton (Liverpool), the former light-weighter champion, has come back to the ring when he fights Tommy Glencross...

For the record

Table of sports records and results, including tennis, hockey, and other sports.

Littlewoods Pools

Table of Littlewoods Pools results, including various pool games and their winners.

Warwick

Table of racing results from Warwick, including various horse races and their winners.

Hockey

WOMEN'S TERRITORIAL TROPHIES

WOMEN'S TERRITORIAL TROPHIES: North: Durham 2, South: Lancashire 1, etc.

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia Flyers 4, New York Rangers 3, etc.

Bobsleigh

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO: Cup of the Nations: 1. East Germany, 2. West Germany, etc.

Littlewoods Pools

Table of Littlewoods Pools results, including various pool games and their winners.

Warwick

Table of racing results from Warwick, including various horse races and their winners.

# Calendar of world sport for 1978

كلدان للاطفال

By Richard Streeton

No crystal ball is needed to predict that sport in 1978 for many people will be dominated by World Cup football in Argentina and the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Canada. Or that apartheid and other political issues, together with reverberations from the Packer affair, both in cricket and other games, will continue to intrude upon the sports pages. The struggles between various governing bodies in sport and leading commercial and television interests, can be expected to intensify over the next 12 months.

It is impossible to list these clashes in the calendar below, but they could provide the most significant happenings of all in sport. There seems to be no limit to the money cascading into sport from big business, through sponsorship and other channels. A lot of its influence is beneficial, although it has some murky areas as well, and the dangers tend to get overlooked. As sportsmen seize chances to accrue in a few weeks more than their fathers earned in a lifetime, it behoves administrators to reappraise structures and standards, and to tread warily.

Nobody, of course, should blame individuals for wishing to make the most of their talents, especially now that so much dedication, time and travel is required at the higher levels. Anyone, though, a year ago who prophesied that this week 50 of the world's leading cricketers would be working for a private promoter rather than playing Test matches would have been in danger of being certified. Yet it has happened and that is why athletics for instance should not ignore the potential threat from the Dubai circus. A measure of scepticism is reasonable in all the cases that can be cited, but it explains why football will continue to face the possibility of the United States creaming off the best from Europe and South America. Why renewed moves can be expected, sooner or later, for semi-professionalism, perhaps, in rugby union; and, in a lesser sport, why badminton is already in the throes of a wounding struggle.

There was irony attached to the remarks of the All England Club official last week when he said the amount of money tennis players earned was "almost indecent". Tennis led the way along this particular path a few years

ago. What does he think about Muhammad Ali's \$10m title defence planned for 1978 or the £170,000 he asks for the winner of the Dubai mile race? Mr Justice Sinden said in the course of his Packer judgment that he was surprised a promoter had not moved into cricket earlier. His view, surely, might equally be applied to several other sports. In an age of commercial exploitation, takeovers and contractual opportunities, it would have been naive to assume that sportsmen would escape becoming embroiled.

Turning to more tangible things, the preliminary groups for the World Cup programme in June will be drawn in Buenos Aires on January 14. Scotland for the second successive tournament will be the only British Isles representatives in the final stages. The matches will once again pose the challenge between the Old World and the New—whether European sides, not least West Germany, the holders, can win in South America, something that has not happened since 1930.

The Commonwealth Games should bring their full quota of memorable performances and a chance to put them in perspective with those achieved at the African Games in Algiers immediately

beforehand from July 13-18 and the Asian Games in Bangkok from December 9-22. In several sports the British competitors at Edmonton have important engagements in Europe as soon as they return. Any swimmers chosen for the world championships in West Berlin from August 18-23 will not even stay for the closing ceremony in Canada as they return promptly for acclimatization purposes. Athletics competitors must await their peak again at the European championships in Prague from August 29 to September 3 and the lawn bowlers rush back for the EBA championships at Worthing from August 14-25.

Golf's world cup returns to the British Isles for the first time since 1960 when it is staged at Waterville from July 6-9 and in tennis the British hard court championships are back on the calendar, though later than they used to be, at Bournemouth from September 18-24. England stages both the men's lacrosse world championships at Stockport from July 1-6 and also the European badminton championships at Preston from April 9-15.



Edmonton: trading post 1795, Klondyke gold rush 1896, Commonwealth Games 1978.

## Commonwealth games

- Athletics: Aug 6-12 (Commonwealth Stadium)
- Badminton: Aug 4-11 (Alberta University)
- Bowls: Aug 4-11 (Coronation Greens)
- Boxing: Aug 4-11 (Edmonton Gardens)
- Cycling: Aug 4-12 (Argyll Velodrome)
- Gymnastics: Aug 6-9 (Coliseum)
- Swimming: Aug 3-10 (Strathcona Rink)
- Weightlifting: Aug 4-8 (Jubilee Auditorium)
- Wrestling: Aug 9-11 (Alberta University)

## Angling

- July 1: British men's championship, fourth division, River Hunzill
- July 15: British women's championship, River Neve
- Aug 19: British men's championship, third division, River Witham
- Sept 9: British men's championship, first division, River Aron
- Sept 23: British men's championship, second division, River Trent

## Archery

- April 2: British indoor championships, Cosford
- May 27-28: British field championships, Rhondda
- June 10-11: British target championships, Sunningdale
- June 28-30: Grand National tournament, Oxford
- Aug 5-6: European target championships, Sionelagh

## Athletics

- Jan 27-28: British indoor championships, Cosford
- Feb 11: Britain v West Germany, Cosford
- Feb 17: East Germany v Britain, Sentenberg
- Mar 1: Britain v Spain, men, Cosford
- Mar 4: English cross-country championships, Leeds
- Mar 11-12: European indoor championships, Milan
- Mar 14: Europe v United States, indoors, Milan
- Mar 25: International cross-country championships, Glasgow
- June 10-11: Britain v East Germany, Crystal Palace
- June 24-25: France v Britain, women, France
- July 2: Britain v Bulgaria, women, Crystal Palace
- July 14-16: United Kingdom closed championships, Meadowbank
- Aug 19-19: Women's AAA championships, Crystal Palace
- Aug 29-Sept 3: European championships, Prague
- Sept 9-10: Britain v Soviet Union v Finland, Crystal Palace
- Sept 15: IAC meeting, Crystal Palace

## Badminton

- Jan 3: Denmark v England, Copenhagen
- Jan 4: Sweden v England, Trelleborg
- Jan 19: Uber Cup, European zone semi-final, England v Canada or Netherlands, Washington, Durham
- March 15-18: All-England championships, Wembley
- April 9-15: European championships, Preston
- May 13-20: Uber Cup, inter-zone finals, New Zealand

## Basketball

- March 28: European Cup Winners' Cup final
- April 1: English Cup finals, men and women, Wembley
- April 6: European Cup final
- April 7 and 14: British Federation Cup final
- Aug 19-Sept 3: Commonwealth championships, in Wales, Scotland and England
- Oct 1-14: World championships, Manila

## Billiards, snooker

- Feb 6-10: Masters snooker tournament, New London Theatre
- Feb 27-March 18: English amateur billiards championship, Middlesbrough
- April 13-15: English amateur snooker championship, All-England final, Blackpool
- April 17-29: World professional snooker championship, Sheffield

## Bobsleigh, toboggan

- Jan 7-8: European four-man bob championships, Igls
- Jan 14-15: Heston Gold Cup, Cresta Run, St Moritz; European two-man bob championship, Igls
- Jan 21-22: Curzon Cup, Cresta Run; World toboggan championships, Igls
- Jan 28-29: Babington Trophy, Cresta Run; British toboggan championships, Heston
- Feb 1: Swiss Cresta championship
- Feb 4: Morgan Cup, Cresta Run
- Feb 4-5: European toboggan championship, Hammerstrand; World two-man bob championship, Lake Placid
- Feb 11: Cresta Grand National
- Feb 11-12: World four-man bob championship, Lake Placid

## Bowls

- June 9-11: EBA Masters singles tournament, Worthing
- June 19-21: Home internationals, women, Cardiff
- June 22: British Isles championships, women, Cardiff
- July 3-4: British Isles championships, men, Glasgow
- July 5-7: Home internationals, men, Glasgow
- July 7-16: English women's championships, Leamington
- Aug 14-26: EBA and county championship finals, Worthing

## Boxing

- Jan 11: England v Scotland, Gloucester
- Jan 30: England v France, Coronation Hotel, Las Vegas
- Feb 15: Muhammad Ali v Leon Spinks, Las Vegas
- May 5: ABA finals, Wembley
- May 6-20: World amateur championships, Belgrade

## Canoeing

- May 13-14: British open wild water championships
- June 1-4: Slalom international (Trywary)
- July 8-9: British sprint championships, Holme Pierrepont
- Aug 10-13: World Championships, Belgrade
- Aug 26-28: British long distance championships

## Croquet

- May 15-20: Peel memorials, Cheltenham
- July 24: Men's and women's championships, Cheltenham
- July 17-22: Open championships, Hurlingham and Roehampton
- Sept 30-Oct 1: All England handicap finals, Roehampton

## Cycling

- May 28-June 10: Tour of Britain
- June 25: British professional road race championship, Coventry
- June 29-July 23: Tour de France
- July 1: British amateur road race championship, Caistor; British women's road race championships, Sutton Bonington; London-York professional race
- July 14-18: Scottish milk race
- July 14-23: British track championships, Leicester
- Aug 8-12: Glasgow-London professional race
- Aug 16-27: World championships, Munich, Cologne and Nürburgring

## Cricket

- Jan 27: Pakistan v England, Hyderabad
- Jan 7-12: Australia v India, Sydney
- Jan 13-17: Packer Australian XI v World XI, Melbourne
- Jan 18-23: Pakistan v England, Karachi
- Jan 27-31: Packer Australian XI v World XI, Perth
- Jan 28-Feb 2: Australia v India, Adelaide
- Feb 9-13: Packer Australian XI v World XI, Sydney
- Feb 10-15: New Zealand v England, Wellington
- Feb 24-March 1: New Zealand v England, Christchurch
- March 4-9 (or 10): New Zealand v England, Auckland
- May 24: England v Pakistan, Manchester (one day)
- May 26: England v Pakistan, Oval (one day)
- June 1-6: England v Pakistan, Birmingham
- June 15-20: England v Pakistan, Lord's
- June 29-July 4: England v Pakistan, Leeds
- July 15: England v New Zealand, Scarborough (one day)
- July 17: England v New Zealand, Manchester (one day)
- July 22: Benson and Hedges Cup final, Lord's
- July 27-Aug 1: England v New Zealand, Oval
- Aug 10-15: England v New Zealand, Nottingham
- Aug 24-29: England v New Zealand, Lord's
- Sept 2: Gillette Cup final, Lord's

## Equestrianism

- April 13-16: Badminton Horse Trials
- May 11-14: Royal Windsor Horse Show
- May 26-29: Embassy show jumping, Hickstead
- May 31-June 3: Royal Barb and Westpool
- June 16-18: Benson and Hedges tournament, Cardiff
- July 2-6: Royal Show, Stoneleigh
- July 9-15: World dressage championship, London
- July 17-18: British Jumping Derby, Hickstead
- July 17-22: Royal International Horse Show, Wembley
- Aug 3-6: Nations Cup meeting, Hickstead
- Aug 8-13: Royal Dublin Society show
- Aug 15-19: World driving championship, Budapest
- Aug 16-20: World show jumping championship, Aschen
- Aug 25-Sept 8: Willis British championship, Hickstead
- Aug 27-Sept 3: Burghley horse trials
- Sept 14-17: World three-day event championship, Lexington, Kentucky
- Oct 2-7: Horse of the Year show, Wembley
- Dec 14-18: Olympia show

## Fencing

- Feb 4-5: Coronation Cup, men's foil, de Beumont Centre
- Feb 11-12: C.L. de Beumont Cup, women's foil, de Beumont Centre
- March 4: Martini epee competition, de Beumont Centre and Seymour Hall
- April 8-9: Corbie Cup, sabre event, de Beumont Centre
- April 15-16: British epee championship, de Beumont Centre
- April 22-23: British foil championship, men, de Beumont Centre
- April 29-30: British sabre championship and British foil championship, women, de Beumont Centre
- July 13-23: World championships, Hamburg

## Football's leading fixtures

### World Cup: Argentina June 1-25

- (Sixteen countries play in four groups)
- June 2, 6 and 10: Group one matches at Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata
- June 1, 2, 6 and 10: Group two matches at Buenos Aires, Rosario and Cordoba
- June 3, 7 and 11: Group three matches at Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata

### Other fixtures

- Feb 22: West Germany v England, Munich
- March 18: Football League Cup final, Wembley
- April 19: England v Brazil, Wembley
- April 26: UEFA Cup final, first leg
- May 3: European Cup Winners' Cup final, Paris
- May 6: FA Cup final, Wembley; Scottish Cup final, Glasgow
- May 9: UEFA Cup final, second leg (or May 11)
- May 10: European Cup final, Wembley
- May 13: Wales v England, Cardiff; Northern Ireland v Scotland, Belfast
- May 16: England v Northern Ireland, Wembley
- May 17: Scotland v Wales, Glasgow
- May 19: Wales v Northern Ireland, Wrexham
- May 20: Scotland v England, Glasgow
- May 24: England v Hungary, Wembley
- Sept 20: European championship; Denmark v England, Republic of Ireland v Northern Ireland
- Oct 25: European championship; Republic of Ireland v England, Northern Ireland v Denmark
- Nov 29: European championship; Bulgaria v Northern Ireland

## Golfing

- May 20-25: British championships, Leamona, Aikou
- Aug 19-28: European championships, Nympsfield, Stroud

## Golf

- April 6-9: United States Masters, Augusta
- May 6-7: Lytham Trophy, Royal Lytham
- May 19-21: Brabazon trophy, Woodhall Spa
- May 26-29: PGA championship, Royal Birkdale
- June 5-10: British Amateur championship, Troon
- June 6-10: British women's championship, Notts
- June 15-18: United States Open
- July 6-9: World Cup, Waterville, Co Kerry
- July 12-15: Open championship St Andrews
- July 24-29: English Amateur championship, Royal Birkdale
- July 26-29: British women's strokeplay championship, Foxhills
- Aug 2-6: Colgate women's tournament, Sunningdale
- Aug 3-6: United States PGA championship, Oakmont
- Aug 4-7: St Andrews Trophy (Great Britain v Continent), Bremen
- Aug 4-5: Curtis Cup, Apawamis, New York
- Oct 4-7: Dunlop Masters, St Pierre, Chermant
- Oct 12-15: Colgate matchplay tournament, Wentworth
- Oct 19-22: European Open, London area

## Greyhound racing

- April 8: Grand National, White City
- July 22: Derby White City
- Sept 4: St Leger, Wembley

## Gymnastics

- Jan 21: Champions Cup, Albert Hall
- April 15: Champions All tournament, Wembley
- May 5-7: British men's championships, Coventry
- May 13: British women's championships, venue undecided
- Dec 5-6: British international tournament, venue undecided

## Hockey

- March 4: Wales v England, women, Llanelli
- March 5: County final
- March 11: England v United States, women, Wembley
- March 11-12: International festival, Lord's
- March 19-April 2: World Cup, Buenos Aires
- March 28-30: Five nations tournament, women, Bedford
- April 1: England v Scotland, women, Chesterfield
- April 15: Ireland v England, women, Cork
- April 29-May 1: International tournament, women, Amstelveen
- May 7: National club final
- May 12-15: European club championships, men and women, Barcelona
- Sept 2-10: European Nations Cup, Hanover

## Ice hockey

- March 10-19: World championships, pool C, Las Palmas
- March 12-27: World championships, pool B, Belgrade
- April 26-May 14: World championships, pool A, Prague

## Judo

- April 15: British men's open championships, Crystal Palace
- April 25-26: British men's team championships, Bath
- May 4-7: European individual championships, Helsinki

## Racing

- Feb 11: Schweppes Gold Trophy, hurdle, Newbury
- March 15: Champion Hurdle, Cheltenham
- March 16: Gold Cup, Cheltenham
- April 1: Grand National, Liverpool
- April 8: Lincoln Handicap, Doncaster
- May 4: 1,000 Guineas, Newmarket
- May 6: 2,000 Guineas, Newmarket
- June 4: French Derby, Chantilly
- June 7: Derby, Epsom
- June 10: Oaks, Epsom
- June 20-23: Royal Ascot
- June 24: Irish Derby, the Curragh (Ireland)
- July 8: Eclipse Stakes, Sandown Park
- July 23: King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, Ascot
- July 25-29: Goodwood meeting
- Aug 22: Benson and Hedges Gold Cup, York
- Sept 1: St Leger Stakes, Doncaster
- Sept 22: Ayr Gold Cup
- Oct 1: Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, Longchamp
- Oct 7: Cambridgeshire Handicap, Newmarket
- Oct 21: Champion Stakes, Casewick Handicap, Newmarket
- Oct 28: William Hill Futurity Stakes, Doncaster
- Nov 25: Hennessy Gold Cup, Newbury
- Dec 26: King George VI Steeplechase, Kempton Park

## Lacrosse

- Feb 25: Men's senior flag final, Crystal Palace
- March 11: Scotland v England, women, Dunfermline College, Edinburgh
- March 18: England v Wales, women, Hurlingham
- June 24: South v Australia, men (or June 25)
- July 1-8: Men's world championships, Stockport
- July 16-Aug 25: English women's Australian tour
- Sept 23: Iroquois Cup, meo

## Modern pentathlon

- June 19-23: Home internationals, Crystal Palace
- Aug 10-13: British open championship, Walton-on-Thames
- Aug 12-15: World championships, Jokoping

## Motor cycling

- Feb 18: World trials championship, Rhyader
- April 21-23: World formula 750 world championship, Brands Hatch
- May 21: World speedway team championship, Reading
- June 3-9: Isle of Man TT races
- June 18: British 250 mto-cross grand prix, Lochpiper
- July 2: British 500 mto-cross grand prix, Croft
- July 16: European sidecar cross country championship, Newbury
- Aug 5-6: British grand prix, Silverstone
- Sept 2: World individual speedway championship, Wembley
- Sept 23-24: British grand prix d'Endurance, Brands Hatch

## Motor racing

- Jan 15: Argentine GP, Buenos Aires
- Jan 21-28: Monte Carlo Rally
- Jan 29: Brazilian GP, Rio de Janeiro
- March 4: South African GP, Kyalami
- March 19: International Trophy, Silverstone
- April 2: United States GP West, Long Beach
- May 13: Monaco GP, Monte Carlo
- May 21: Belgian GP, Zolder
- June 4: Spanish GP, Jarama
- June 10-11: Le Mans
- June 18: Swedish GP, Anderstorp
- July 2: French GP, Paul Ricard
- July 16: British GP, Brands Hatch
- July 30: German GP, Hockenheim
- Aug 13: Austrian GP, Zeltweg
- Aug 27: Dutch GP, Zandvoort
- Sept 10: Italian GP, Monza
- Oct 1: United States GP, Watkins Glen (or Oct 8)
- Nov 19-23: RAC rally

## Netball

- Jan 25: England v Wales, Coventry (or 26)
- Feb 18: England v Northern Ireland, Bristol
- March 18: Wales v England, Cardiff
- Nov 4: Wembley international

## Orienteering

- March 24-27: Jan Kjellström Trophy, Sheffield
- April 30: British relay championships, North-east England
- June 11: British championships, Fife

## Polo

- May 21-29: National 14-goal championship, Cirencester
- June 4-11: Queen's Cup, Windsor
- June 18-25: Royal Windsor Cup, Windsor
- July 1-6: Cowdray Park Gold Cup, Cowdray
- July 15-16: Whitbread Cup, Woolmers Park
- July 18-30: Cowdray Park Challenge Cup, Cowdray
- July 25: WIP Coronation Cup, Windsor
- Aug 6: National team trophy, Cirencester

## Racing

- Feb 11: Schweppes Gold Trophy, hurdle, Newbury
- March 15: Champion Hurdle, Cheltenham
- March 16: Gold Cup, Cheltenham
- April 1: Grand National, Liverpool
- April 8: Lincoln Handicap, Doncaster
- May 4: 1,000 Guineas, Newmarket
- May 6: 2,000 Guineas, Newmarket
- June 4: French Derby, Chantilly
- June 7: Derby, Epsom
- June 10: Oaks, Epsom
- June 20-23: Royal Ascot
- June 24: Irish Derby, the Curragh (Ireland)
- July 8: Eclipse Stakes, Sandown Park
- July 23: King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, Ascot
- July 25-29: Goodwood meeting
- Aug 22: Benson and Hedges Gold Cup, York
- Sept 1: St Leger Stakes, Doncaster
- Sept 22: Ayr Gold Cup
- Oct 1: Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, Longchamp
- Oct 7: Cambridgeshire Handicap, Newmarket
- Oct 21: Champion Stakes, Casewick Handicap, Newmarket
- Oct 28: William Hill Futurity Stakes, Doncaster
- Nov 25: Hennessy Gold Cup, Newbury
- Dec 26: King George VI Steeplechase, Kempton Park

## Rackets, real tennis

- Feb 5-12: Amateur rackets singles championship, Queen's Club
- April 13-16: Bathurst Cup real tennis, Paris
- April 23-30: Amateur real tennis singles championship, Queen's Club
- May 13-21: Henry Leaf real tennis trophy finals, Queen's Club

## Rowing

- March 18: Head of the River, Mortlake to Putney
- March 25: University Boat Race (230)
- May 24-27: Oxford Summer Eights (provisional)
- July 1-5: Cambridge May Races (provisional)
- June 24-25: Nottinghamshire International, Nottingham
- June 29-July 2: Henley Royal Regatta
- July 15-16: British championships, Nottingham
- July 21: Doggett's Coat and Badge, London Bridge to Chelsea (11.30)
- Oct 30-Nov 5: Men's and women's world championships, New Zealand

## Rugby League

- Jan 28: Players competition, final
- Feb 19: Wales v England, Swansea
- March 5: France v England
- May 13: Challenge Cup final, Wembley
- May 20: Premiership final

## Rugby Union

- Jan 18: England v Australia, 19 group, Twickenham
- Jan 21: France v England, Paris; Ireland v Scotland, Dublin
- Feb 4: England v Wales, Twickenham; Scotland v France, Murrayfield
- Feb 18: France v Ireland, Paris; Wales v Scotland, Cardiff
- March 4: Scotland v England, Murrayfield; Ireland v Wales, Dublin
- March 8: UAU final, Twickenham
- March 18: England v Ireland, Twickenham; Wales v France, Cardiff
- April 15: John Player Cup final, Twickenham
- April 29: Middlesex Sevens, Twickenham
- June 11: Australia v Wales, Brisbane
- June 17: Australia v Wales, Sydney
- Oct 14: England v Argentina, Twickenham (or Oct 21)
- Oct-Dec: All Blacks tour of British Isles
- Dec 12: Oxford v Cambridge, Twickenham

## Swimming

- March 8-11: National short course championships, Cheltenham
- March 25-27: Coca-Cola meeting, Leeds
- April 8-9: Six nations contest, Dortmund
- April 21-22: Britain v East Germany v Sweden, Crystal Palace
- May 26-29: ASA championships, Blackpool
- May 26-28: Four nations water polo, Crystal Palace
- July 8-9: International Diving Union Cup, Lina
- July 26-30: European junior championships, Florence
- Aug 14-19: National age group competitions, Coventry
- Aug 18-28: World championships, West Berlin
- Nov 25: Inter-county knockout competition final, Nuneaton

## Skating

- Jan 28-29: European speed championships, men, Oslo
- Jan 31-Feb 4: European figure championships, Strasbourg
- Feb 11-12: World sprint championships, Lake Placid
- Feb 25-26: World speed championships, men, Göteborg
- March 4-5: World speed championships, women, Helsinki
- March 7-11: World figure championships, Ottawa
- Nov 5-6: Richmond Trophy, Richmond
- Nov 18: British ice dance championship, Nottingham
- Nov 25-29: British figure championships, Richmond

## Skiing

- Jan 14-15: Lauberhorn Cup, Weugen; Martini-Kanalar, Sanicario
- Jan 20-22: Hahnenkamm Trophy,Kitzbühel
- Jan 21-Feb 3: British Nordic championships, Oberjoch
- Jan 29-Feb 5: World Alpine championships, Garmisch-Partenkirchen
- Feb 8-12: Arberg-Nordbar Championship, Mysjö, St Cervin
- Feb 17-27: World Nordic championships, Lahti
- March 1-5: World biathlon championships, Hochfilzen
- March 16-19: World Cup finals, Arosa
- April 8-9: British Alpine championships, Cairngorm

## Squash rackets

- Jan 13-15: Home internationals, Warrington
- Jan 25-Feb 6: British amateur championships, Wembley
- Feb 17-19: SRPA closed championships, Grimsby
- Feb 24-March 2: British women's open championships, Wembley
- March 15-19: European amateur team championships, men and women, Amsterdam
- March 28-April 8: British open championships, Wembley

## Shooting

- May 18-20: British open clay pigeon championships, London
- July 10-12: NRA meeting, Bisley
- Aug 11-12: British open skeet championships, Bedford
- Aug 12-14: British small-bore rifle championships, Bisley
- Aug

Foreign Report

Cottages to let with all mod cons—official

Last summer a colleague rented a Devon cottage for his family holiday. It was advertised as having a bedroom, a sitting room, and a kitchen. Only when he arrived did he discover that all three were in fact in the same small space. The family gave up the holiday after one uncomfortable night, and returned home. They had no redress. The consumer's usual protections do not apply when doing business with private individuals.

Of course most people hiring holiday cottages in Britain this summer will be fully satisfied. But the fact remains that the trade is unregulated, and that charges and standards vary enormously. Agencies take large mark-ups on rentals, and holiday homes belonging to organizations with reputations to maintain, such as the National Trust and Landmark Trust, have to be booked years rather than months ahead although they are by no means cheap.

They do things differently in France. In Britain not even the hotels are officially inspected or classified. In France, where there is a passion for placing things in categories, even the country holiday cottages are officially graded.

Last year 500 British families called at the French Government Tourist Office (178 Piccadilly) to book holidays in Gites de France—privately owned holiday homes and modernized to set standards with the aid of government improvement grants and low-cost loans. This year the service is being expanded and bookings will also be taken by post.

The Gites (the word means the farm, or nest, of a hare) are administered by the Federation Nationale des Gites de France, a para-governmental, non-profit-making organization, responsible for developing the self-catering rural holiday market in France.

In return for the financial assistance they get in modernizing and equipping what are usually redundant cottages or farm buildings, gite owners have to sign and abide by a strict charter. The provisions cover the standards of comfort, equipment and amenities. No gite, for example, is without an internal, flushing, ventilated toilet.

The owners are also obliged to ensure that they, or their representatives, are available close at hand to welcome guests, deal with any problems, and provide information.

Gites are inspected by the departmental authorities before being accepted on to the lists, and are officially graded. They do not get stars, like hotels, but, appropriately for an essentially rural phenomenon, épis, or ears of corn. One épis signifies basic accommodation conforming to the minimum standards. Three is the deluxe class, which may be a timbered apartment in an ancient chateau.

Prices are determined in consultation with the departmental authorities. Once fixed they cannot be increased by more than 10 per cent a year. The departmental sections of the Federation handling bookings take a modest amount, between 5 and 10 per cent of the total rent, for their services. Tax concessions which the owners enjoy depend upon their observing the charter rules.

The result is that, especially with the pound strengthening against the franc, gites represent an exceptional holiday bargain. An average gite for five, with two bedrooms, living room, kitchen and bathroom, costs £30 to £45 a week, according to season. Prices can be as low as £15 a week in the off-season. I stayed at a delightful gite in the Manche last summer, and took the opportunity to inspect several others. Our own cottage, with three double bedrooms and a huge living-dining room with all the iron utensils required for cooking over blazing wood fires in the open cheminée (and a modern electric cooker in the modern kitchen) cost 370 francs in June or September, 470 in July or August.

In the standard of equipment and decoration surpassed anything I have seen in self-catering accommodation in Britain, but it rated only two épis—because the bathroom was on the ground floor, rather than in the bedrooms, and the exterior rather plain.

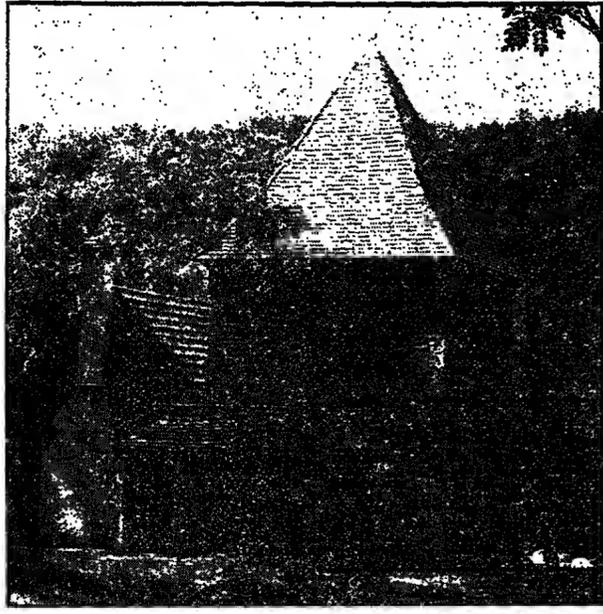
On the other hand we had farmyard animals at the backdoor, and neighbouring farmers kept us supplied with fresh picked strawberries, corn-fed chicken, and fresh cream. We had two cows within easy driving distance.

There are 23,000 gites in France all told. There are even gites in the French West Indies, Martinique and Guadeloupe, as well as a couple of hundred in Corsica. The department with the largest number is Savoie, followed by Ardèche, Isère, Finistère, Aude and Dordogne.

To book a gite it is necessary to join the British section of the Federation. Membership costs £3.50, and includes a copy of the French Farm and Village Holiday Guide listing and illustrating 1,000 gites, and otherwise obtainable from major bookellers at £1.95, or direct from Euro States Publishing, 14 Sun Street, EC2M 2QA. The British section's address is 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL.

The French Travel Service have also introduced package holidays using gite accommodation, from £42 per person per week including cross-Channel ferry fares. Full details of these are available from British Rail travel centres.

Robin Young  
Consumer Affairs Correspondent



Argentina keeps its grip on Perón's wife

On Christmas Eve, María Estela Perón, who so pathetically misruled Argentina for 21 months, began her twenty-second month of imprisonment. No other deposed Argentine president this century has been detained for so long. But Señora Perón, who is trapped as much by her past and the shadow of her late husband as by the will of her military jailers, faces the likelihood of further unhappy years of detention ahead.

With a recent suicide attempt behind her, the fragile ex-cabaret girl and ex-president is confined to a wire-mesh compound inside the Azopardo navy base 200 miles from Buenos Aires. If some reports can be credited, she would happily enter a Spanish convent and forget about Argentina and Peronism.

For a woman of 45, heretofore of political girth, who enslaved herself to Juan Domingo Perón nearly two decades ago—becoming a prisoner of his politics, then of the presidency and now of her military overthrowers, escapism is an understandable sentiment.

But it is not likely to be satisfied, unless humanitarian considerations intervene. The military Junta will not easily forget Señora Perón's stubbornness, hysterics and

devotion to Perón. During Argentina's darkest hour, she revealed only brief flashes of political common sense, and the Junta will hardly risk her rallying Peronism from Spanish exile, as Perón did for many years.

The reported hopes of some Peronists that she may soon be set free in Argentina appear even dreamier. For without her, the Junta can hope that Peronism, with its nationalism and egocentric populism, will sink into oblivion. For 30 years it has been Argentina's main political force, a sibling of fascist ideologies of the 1930s which has long helped make Argentina ungovernable.

Whatever the discredit and disintegration brought upon the movement by its disastrous 1973-76 government, it has a history of remarkable resilience. The military interest must be to avert its further resurrection if they are to build the promised "new republic" along modern and democratic lines.

It is ominous for Señora Perón's hopes of freedom that the military plan to rule another 10 years to achieve this. It is equally ominous that the eventual desecration of non-leaderless Peronist votes, and con-

trol of Peronist unions, will largely decide Argentina's future. The struggle to grab them will shape its politics for years, and Señora Perón will be either a pawn or a queen in the game.

There are populists enough in today's Argentina eager to inherit Perón's constituency. Some, like Perón, are military men, though lacking his schooling in Mussolini's Italy. Prominent generals can already be tentatively identified playing to the masses and the Peronist unions, hindering President Jorge Rafael Videla's efforts to hurry the past and modernize the country. Even Admiral Emilio Messera, Junta member and navy commander, is often identified among them, particularly as the chief critic of austere economic policies designed to restore the economy, establish a free market system and sweep away built-in fiefdoms.

Señora Perón's magic name may one day drag her into this emerging power game. Indeed, the Peronist movement is not dead yet, and whenever its adherents gather her name is still enthusiastically chanted. "If she definitely drops the hunch who surrounded her in office we will still recognize her as our leader," declares Señor Juan José Señora Videla, leader of a Peronist labour organization.

But at present the Junta wants her sentenced on corruption charges in the civil courts, partly because this could grant some post facto legitimacy to her overthrow. They also need her evidence in similar cases against her former colleagues. The seven cases against Señora Perón include alleged embezzlement of millions of dollars of public money. Some appear quite flimsy, but the possible sentences range up to eight years jail and it may be two years before any judgments are reached. Until then she is being detained by court order. Her early release is unlikely on technical grounds. President Videla cannot legally pardon her before sentencing, so the judges would have to quash each case in unison to make it possible.

Even that would not guarantee Señora Perón's freedom. She is simultaneously held under the Junta's "Act of Institutional Responsibility" by which she and about 50 others have lost their property, freedom and political rights for allegedly culpable irresponsibility in office. This may all seem harsh on a small town dancing girl who married a big-time ex-dictator and then did her incompetent best when he returned in power, died, and left her as president. But if the penalties Argentina's rulers pay to be commensurate with the disasters they bring, Señora Perón might well consider herself comfortably off in her three-room officer's bungalow at the Azopardo base. She has her poodle, her Spanish maid and her garden. Her solitary friend, Señora Guca de Marco, wife of an ex-minister, comes to stay at weekends and reports her well cared for, in good health and reasonable cheer, writing poetry and the story of her life with Perón.

Yet the bit part actress who tried bravely to understand the dead master in an impossible role is an unfortunate surrogate for Perón's own guilt. Perón was indeed happy in the hour of his death, for his legacy was a violently disintegrating movement and a country wrecked by his greatest moment of crisis. If ever a deserved posthumous impeachment, for designating an inexperienced woman to succeed him as president at such a time, it was he rather than his ill-equipped successor.

Andrew Tarnowski



WILL EUROPE GREET THE NEW YEAR WITH AN ECONOMIC HANGOVER?

In next Tuesday's issue Europa looks to the future with a review of the past year, and assesses the economic legacy of 1977. A firm footing for movement forward or just more shifting sand?

In addition, Europa stirs the troubled waters of the European partners' policies on fishing rights and also pursues big fish of a different kind with a report on the European businessman's growing interest in tax havens.

Opportunities for future business in China are revealed, and Jacqueline Grapin, editor of Europa, considers Canada's increasing inclination to flex economic muscles independently of the U.S.

Published on the first Tuesday of every month, Europa deals with economic, financial and industrial affairs and allied social questions, as they affect the total European business community.

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A force in the Mediterranean

"There's potential for many ambiguous situations with something less than a major war". This is how Nato's southern headquarters at Naples characterizes its command area.

Much the same can be said of the command region on the other side of the Mediterranean where a weighty element of Nato, the American Sixth Fleet, is also a considerable presence, mostly unseen but constantly felt, for Israel and her Arab neighbours.

If formal America's security guarantees may ultimately be extended to Israel in the context of a Middle Eastern arrangement, the Sixth Fleet will give them instant credibility. The Arabs in general have, indeed, always regarded it as evidence of a commitment implicit but no less firm.

Awareness of the credibility aspect is brightened by a visit to the "USS America", 78,500 tons, 5,000 men—2,100 of them in the air wing—which was cruising off Crete with her 30 jet aircraft on deck and night training flights.

She is currently one of two such US carriers that are a permanent feature among the 15 or so combatant ships on attachment with the Sixth Fleet and serve to give it a conspicuous lead in a political show of force.

The description "completely equipped air bases" is hardly an exaggeration, and as one officer put it, unlike land bases overseas, the carriers are not dependent on the political temperament of foreign governments.

That night, as returning fighters came howling out of the inky blackness, the only indication of sea level was a red semaphore winking out

somewhere on the port beam—supplied by one of the five escorting destroyers.

If precisely aimed visual signals have not been totally superseded by electronic systems, one of the reasons for this had been clearly visible until dusk two or three miles behind: a Russian Riga-class frigate that had been trailing the carrier all day.

The Soviet Mediterranean Squadron—with at least a score of combatant vessels drawn from both Northern and Black Sea Fleets—has a flotilla of intelligence-gathering craft dogging the wake of major United States units.

"Our battle-tails", they are called by the Americans who do not regard this type of surface surveillance. They rely instead on intensive photo reconnaissance by Crusaders, one of the eight different types of jet aircraft on the America, and her companion carrier.

The perpetual Soviet eye was even useful to Washington in the 1967 Middle East war when President Nasser, mindful always of the importance for Israel of the American naval force, accused fleet planes of attacking his forces in the Sinai. Moscow knew the charge to be incorrect.

The Soviet missile cruisers of the Moscow and Kriza classes have helicopters, but are disadvantaged in wide-ranging air cover.

While the Russians do have limited facilities at Tartus, in Syria, and access to repair yards in Yugoslavia, their being deprived of the use of Alexandria as from April, 1976, means they have since had nothing comparable with the services available to the Americans at Naples and other Italian ports.

Because of this current

logistic deficiency, their main units are probably less active in promoting Moscow's political aims than would otherwise be the case. They make much use of fixed anchorages in international waters off North Africa and Crete and rely heavily on auxiliary vessels.

Albania having fallen out with Pelias, the Naples HQ is alert for any hint of a Tirana-Moscow rapprochement enabling the Soviet navy to regain its former submarine base there. They are also on the look out for any move whereby it could avail itself of north African ports, not least Tobruk.

Albanian, Russian, do, of course, visit some of these ports and the small Libyan navy has Soviet equipment, including a submarine, but as yet there is no overt sign of a significantly closer association.

A major concern at Naples is what happens after Tito in Yugoslavia, whose continued independence is regarded as primordial, from the naval aspect as well. Among its other preoccupations are the Greek-Turkish dispute in the Aegean, the importance of ensuring the benevolent neutrality of Spain and the efforts of the British phasing out.

The narrow entrances at each end of the Mediterranean are the steadily-improving satellite surveillance of its 970,000 square miles by both super powers, inhibits maximum deployment of the submarine fleets to which the Soviets in particular have allocated a leading strategic and tactical role.

The "America's" officers brush off any suggestions that the carriers could in some circumstances be like sitting ducks, their confidence a reflec-

tion of the fact that 30 per cent of the navy's budget goes on anti-submarine measures.

"We can be a very elusive target, moving 300 miles over the sea, and stay right on top. We can hit anything coming at us in the air or in the sea. We have reason to feel comfortable living on board here."

Not so for the flight deck squads in their array of red, yellow and white jackets, with crash-helmets and walkie-talkies. Beards, moustaches and glasses are commonplaces: they have something of the look of a Wild West air about them, each busy with his own responsibility.

This was what most surprised the Soviet detector who visited it, the officer said. He couldn't get over the contrast with their ships. "But these men know their jobs and are given the latitude to get on with them independently. The majority are under the age of 20, a few years younger than the pilots. The captain, 50, is a former carrier pilot who was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for six years."

Alan McGregor

Food Report

Pat forecast

The Consumers' Association said immediately after Christmas that if certain things happened shoppers would have to pay about 62p a pound for butter late in 1978. It was a very precise forecast, but it was about as useful and reliable as a prediction of a white Christmas.

The association wanted to illustrate the folly of paying farmers to produce more milk, thereby pushing up prices of dairy goods like butter, when milk products were already so expensive that the BEC was unable to sell much of what it was making.

The association based its forecast on three things. First, it foresaw a rise of 61p a pound on butter in Britain when farm support prices were raised on New Year's Day at the end of the transitional period of the country's membership of the Community. It was safe, with this figure since it had been calculated by the Government a month earlier.

The association then calculated that the rise in farm prices, throughout the EEC, which the European Commission has already proposed for 1978, would add 1p a pound on

butter prices in Britain. It went on to say that the rise proposed by the commission for this country alone through a devaluation of the green pound would add a further 2p.

"By the time all the increases are passed on", the association concluded, "probably by next autumn, and if the special United Kingdom subsidy on butter, British shoppers will then have to pay around 62p a pound."

Each of these three assumptions is highly questionable. First, rises in farm prices proposed by the commission for the whole EEC are almost never accepted by the Council of Community Farm Ministers, which has the final say about them.

Second, the devaluations of the green pound which it suggests are almost never accepted by the British Government,

which has the final say about them. Thirdly, the association assumes that the special subsidy paid in the country about will stay the same.

Its value for most of 1978 has still to be decided, and the British Government has already used the green pound as a bargaining weapon, to gain particular concessions like the butter subsidy. It is therefore unwise for the association to assume that the Government will devalue the green pound as the commission wants and that the subsidy will be unchanged.

It is just as likely that the Community will refuse to extend the subsidy in which case Britain will refuse to devalue the green pound. Butter might then cost 72p a pound late next year.

High Clayton

AN IN...  
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admit...







# Mr Jenkins will be judged on how he handles changes that are bound to shake the EEC

At the end of his first year as president of the European Commission, Mr Roy Jenkins probably has considerably more relaxed than he expected to see a few months ago. Things are starting to go right for the Commission, even though signs of positive achievement are still few and far between.

Part of Mr Jenkins's relative success is that he has established an effective relationship between the Commission and the European Council—the three-yearly summit meeting of heads of government of the Nine. The European Council has just concluded, under the presidency of Belgium (the most efficiently "European" of all EEC member states), an unusually productive meeting, which actually took some useful decisions—on the budget, the size of the regional fund, and on approving the Commission's plan for a new loan to stimulate energy investment.

The second factor going for Mr Jenkins is the sharp reduction in expectations over the past year. His initial difficulties due to sheer lack of understanding of the workings of the peculiar administrative machine—a defect which has now largely been rectified; and partly because he was unwisely billed by too many people who should have known better as the new Messiah, who was going to end the lethargy and frustrations of the Ortolani era, and set the Community off to a new start.

Today people are more reconciled to the fact that reform of the Community institutions is going to be a long and tortuous task, and that there is not much the Community as such can do about some of Europe's more intractable current problems, such as unemployment and inflation. There is a greater air of realism about in Brussels.

At the same time, the recovery of the British and Italian economies has taken at least some of the strain out of EEC policymaking, and has helped to induce a calmer atmosphere. The question now is how the Community can profit from this turnaround, and on that there is as yet no consensus. Roy Jenkins's own ideas in this field are more radical than a majority of his Commission colleagues will accept—let alone the national governments.

However—and this is the final factor working for the new Commission—the main themes of the next few years are beginning to emerge; and it is on these that any new programme has to base itself. The two outstanding new issues are the prospective enlargement of the EEC to take in Spain, Portugal and Greece; and direct elections to the European Parliament.

It is clear that neither of these issues can be treated as an isolated question. Enlargement will fundamentally alter the nature of the Community, and will therefore force a thoroughgoing re-examination of the process of decision-making and the balance of power. A structure which worked reasonably well for six countries (with four languages) has proved dangerously creaky and unwieldy for a community of nine countries (with six languages), and will almost certainly prove unworkable, unless fundamentally reformed, for a community of 12 countries embracing one different language.

Thus the issues of the reform of Community decision-making, which have hitherto been avoided because of their obvious sensitivity, will have to be considered in the context of the enlargement talks. As with enlargement, so with direct elections to the parliament. Here again, the most crucial questions are not those which currently attract debate: the date of elections, the method of voting, and so on. The real issue is the balance of power in the Community between the executive (ie the Commission), the national governments, and the elected legislature.

The important thing about a directly elected parliament is that its members will have the legitimacy which they currently lack as elected legislators, plus the accountability that goes with it; also, they will have more direct access to the European public, and will be able to exert more direct pressure on the national governments, and the elected legislature. The important thing about a directly elected parliament is that its members will have the legitimacy which they currently lack as elected legislators, plus the accountability that goes with it; also, they will have more direct access to the European public, and will be able to exert more direct pressure on the national governments, and the elected legislature.

From national politics. After direct elections, the number of such "moonlighters" will be very few. But this does not alter the fact that on the morrow of direct elections the European Parliament will have no more powers than it has now—and these powers are very few. The European Parliament has no power to initiate or approve legislation. It has limited authority over a part of Community expenditure—but once, for example, over by far the biggest item, the common agricultural policy. It does not appoint the Commission, nor can it remove individual Commissioners, its only power in this respect being the right to sack the whole Commission en bloc.

It is inconceivable that a directly elected, full-time European Parliament will be content to remain for long simply a consultative body, without any of the powers that national legislatures possess. But it is not easy to see some of the national governments—especially the United Kingdom and France—agreeing to any significant transfer of power to the European Parliament. If a major constitutional clash is to be avoided—in which, for example, the parliament might well feel tempted to exercise its constitutional right to dissolve the entire Commission—contingency planning needs to be done now to try to determine how powers can be transferred in a peaceful, orderly and effective way.

In short, a Community with 12 members, and with a directly elected parliament is going to be a very different entity from the present one. So it is no longer a question of arguing whether there should or should not be changes. If the premises of enlargement and direct elections are accepted, change will come anyway. The only questions are how it should be handled, and what kind of Community one should be aiming for.

On this second point, the odds have become a good deal clearer in the last few years. The federal United States of Europe, on the American model, is clearly receding as an attainable objective. At the same time, the strength of the European



institutions has been shown during the recent recession, and the degree of policy coordination between member states is increasing steadily. The development of harmonization and supra-national decision-making has varied greatly, depending on the relevance of the issues to national governments, and the degree of opposition by entrenched national interests. So what is emerging is a loose functional confederation, in which member states retain considerable autonomy, but accept the commitment to abide by the rules of the club and to take into account the views of other members when framing policies; a confederation in which in some areas, but by no means in all, the main focus of decision-making has passed from national to supra-national level. Such a structure is likely to prove durable so long as it remains flexible, and the frontiers of national sovereignty are likely to change with changing pressures and circumstances. But this pragmatic evolutionary process is to continue, there has to be more effective planning at the centre to try to anticipate the critical issues, and to suggest ways in which they might be defused. For what is clear is that the Community is moving daily more deeply into territory where the Treaty of Rome gives little guidance, and where new insights are needed. In default of a European "Brookings" and a hope very much that some such independent but authoritative European "think-tank" will be in operation before long—such forward planning can only effectively be done by EEC members by the Commission. Now that Mr Jenkins and his team have seized in, and the crisis atmosphere of the post few years shows signs of simmering down, it is extremely important that they should concentrate on establishing the structures, and laying down the guidelines, whereby Europe can begin for the first time to plan its future. It is on this, in the analysis, that history will judge them.

Michael Shanks

# Why the world of Elizabeth I was not so unlike our own

The jubilee this year has not provided the parallel of a new Elizabethan age that was such a platitude 25 years ago. Perhaps it seems so obvious that there can be no real comparison between our present state of declining influence and self-confidence with the virile and expansionist England of Gloriana, Drake, Raleigh and Shakespeare. The first Elizabethans, as we all know from infancy, were full of creativity and achievement, and had little in common with us in mood.

Or did they? Perhaps a few words from the old Elizabethans—not entirely selected out of context—may suggest that both Elizabethan ages have much in common—certainly in sharing the traditional English self-depreciation and idolization of the past.

The justice Ralph Rokeby is one of our more Elizabethan-sounding like disgraced correspondents to the *Daily Telegraph*: "In these our times," he wrote, "honest behaviour and fair conditions are so far gone to decay, that the old man's proverb is verified. 'Oh! it is not now as it was in times past when we were young men.'" A government committee considering legislation a little earlier, in 1585, could hardly have said that the law and order arguments of four centuries later: men could only be made better by fear of punishment, for "by the looseness of the times or other remedies, let by the law to acquaint men with virtue."

Pessimistic voices from the early days, before the glories of the reign had produced optimism. But the queen herself at the end of her life, could look back nostalgically to the simpler, violent but straightforward middle ages. In those days force and arms did prevail, but now the wit of the fox is everywhere on foot, so as hardly a faithful and virtuous man may be found."

There was general agreement on one main cause of the looseness of the times—lack of discipline, especially among the young. Black Paper philosophers were common property even among men now thought of as radical. Was it not the early Protestant Bishop Latimer who "never saw, surely, so little discipline as nowadays"? "Alas," he cried, "where is this discipline now in England?" The queen's own tutor, Roger Ascham, is remembered for his perceptive *The Scholemaster*, which urged gentle and pleasurable instruction, but it too looked back to a golden age which only firm teaching could restore. For lack of private discipline "everywhere innocence is



Elizabeth I: her inspiration gave birth to a legend.

gone, bashfulness is banished, much presumption in youth, small authority in age, reverence is neglected, duties be confounded." His patron and the queen's chief minister, Burghley, agreed with the diagnosis and differed only in putting the blame on parents more than schooling: "the unbridled looseness of youth in this age was the parents' fault, who made them men seven years too soon, having but children's judgments."

A generation later the complaints had not lessened. An epitaph to a York couple (1599) could record baldly that their 16 children were "not bad, as children now are, but all good"; and as for adolescents, there is the shepherd's wish in *The Winter's Tale* that "there were no age but twelve ten and three and twenty... for there is nothing in the between but getting wench with child, wronging the ancestry, stealing, fighting... The sins of the flesh, indeed, attracted their usual share of grotesque exaggeration. comment. The *First Book of Homilies*, familiar to all Elizabethans from regular readings in church, declared boldly that "above other vices the outrageous seas of adultery... whoredom, fornication, and uncleanness... overflowed almost the whole world." The protesters of the Festival of Light seem pallid beside a figure like Cartwright, Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, who wished to enforce the Old Testament death penalties for adultery and blasphemy; and Mrs Whitehouse might blush at the sweeping condemnation of percolous influences like the theatre that, it seems, created the first Elizabethan pessimistic writer. Do not plays," asked Philip Stubbes, "induce whoredom and uncleanness? Nay, are they not rather plain devourers of maidenly virtue and chastity?" His kindred spirit, the preacher Thomas White, has

earned immortality for his allegory. The cause of vices is sin and the cause of sin are plays; therefore the cause of plays are plays. And what of provocative female *Leviathan and unsex'd democracy*? "Such starting attire," wrote another clergyman, William Harrison, "as in times past were supposed meet for men but such as now is worn by women, is now become a habit for chaste and sober matrons. I have met with some of these trolls in London as disguised that it hath proved me able to discern whether they were men or women."

Mr Huxley would find the climate of economic privation and physical squalor, the Catholic and Puritan preachers many attempted remedies, a faint much success, and still more lamentable.

The world is changed from last Not to the better but to the worse part; More for a penny we have before seen Than now for four pence, who list to compare.

Immigrants were blamed for native unemployment, and not vice versa. European and not American immigrants, however spoke with the same accent. "Aliens here have their way," a satirical poet declared as early as Henry VIII's time, "and Englishmen clear decay." And there was that perennial price-advance of the weather—perhaps with some justice in some later years of Elizabeth, when crops failed disastrously. Our years are turned upside down, as preached John King in 1595. "Our summers are no summers, our harvests are no harvests." And the moral climate was deteriorating in sympathy, if the old men with long memories could be trusted. John Stow, looking back to the good old days before the Reformation, spoke of the present time (1598) as "the most scoffing, disrespectful and unthankful age that ever was."

Yet many men were to look back from the troubles of Stuart kings and their Parliaments to see Elizabeth's as the golden age they had lost. Plus ça change... If there is a moral anywhere here, it is surely that we judge ourselves much more strictly than our descendants will. And those tedious jeremiads by the idiot who praises with enthusiastic rage, all centuries past but this and every country but his own, need to be taken with more than a grain of salt.

David Palliser  
The author is lecturer in medieval and social history at the University of Birmingham.

## Bernard Levin

# Wanted, some impeccable tales of Kai Lung

I quoted Kai Lung the other day and was met by a look in which there was no glimmer of recognition. Yet surely I cannot be the last among the living to remember, and indeed to read still, that enchanting and unique series of books? I appear to have only three on my shelves—*Kai Lung Unrolls His Mat*, *The Wicket of Kai Lung* and *Kai Lung's Golden Hours*—so no doubt my proselytizing fervour has led me, over the years, to thrust other volumes into the hands of potential converts, for there were several more collections of the tales, and I collected them all assiduously. (If the proselytizing worked, let the converts be easy in their consciences, for if they are new to the company of the blessed, I bear them no grudge for their deceptions.)

The Kai Lung stories were written by a man whose pen-name was Ernest Bramah, the surname being an adaptation of his mother's maiden name; he was really Ernest Bramah Smith. And he kept himself so entirely and fanatically out of the limelight that, until an

American enthusiast, William White, published an article about him in *The American Book Collector* in 1966, his name, together with the fact that he died in 1942, was absolutely all that was known about him; only Julius, the Tichborne Claimant, and E. Travejo seem to elude identification more thoroughly. His very *Who's Who* entry listed nothing but the titles of his books—not even his year of birth was recorded—and his publishers and literary agents used to declare that they had met him only a handful of times in several decades, and then briefly.

William White, in the article I have mentioned, explains that the first book interested him by the author by acquiring an addiction to the books, and was then even more fascinated by the difficulty of finding out anything more about him. But a series of chances led him to a cache of Bramahiana at Texas University—the very walls and floors of that infinitely hospitable institution must be in danger of collapse from the immensity of manuscripts and other literary memorabilia it houses already, and to which it adds daily by the freight-trainful—and from this together with assiduous researches in England, he was

able to piece together as much biographical material as would cover a matchbox-label or two. It seems that Sulih-Bramah was born in 1868, tried farming without success, then moved into journalism; that it is possible to trace his life and movements in some detail (for instance, he went to Manchester Grammar School from his early childhood until 1897, when he was 29; and that for the remaining 45 years of his life he vanished as completely as Villos when he got his head out of the hangman's noose for the last time.

The books remain. And they offer a particular kind of delight—I think entirely new from our literature. Some of the ingredients still exist: his beautifully-talented style, for instance—reminiscent of a more robust Logan Pearsall Smith, a less cruel Evelyn Waugh, an unromanticist Wodehouse—together with his delightful wit (he has so carefully concealed that it only begins to sting some time after it has been withdrawn), his fantastic and apparently effortless imagery, and his almost imperceptible yet very shrewd philosophical stance.

These are all rare enough today, and the combination of them is rarer still, but what Bramah added when all those strands were woven together into an inimitable and wholly missing from even the best literary work: he never raised his voice, and he never buried. Those who have followed me so far without managing to discover anything at all about the content or substance of the books I am writing about may be forgiven if they conclude through clenched teeth that there is at least one man writing today who also writes like this. But the truth is that the art of Ernest Bramah, at any rate in the Kai Lung stories (he also wrote a series about a hood detective called Max Carrados, and for that matter wrote a *Guide to the Varieties and Rarities of English Regal Copper Coins: Charles II—Victoria*) is so elusive that it is very difficult indeed to encapsulate for those to whom it is unknown.

The tales are recounted by an adroit, Chinese storyteller, Kai Lung, and something of the flavour of the work can perhaps be gathered by quoting his own description of himself and his trade, couched in that curious self-deprecatory style that is supposed to be (or to have been) the trademark of the Chinese. My unbecoming name is Kai,

to which has been added that of my profession, I am an ineluctable and ineluctably imagined, and to this end I spread my mat wherever my uplifted voice can entice together a company to listen. Should my feeble efforts be deemed worthy of reward, those who stand around my perchance contribute to my scanty store; but sometimes this is judged superfluous.

The tales themselves are usually set in a context: that is, they are not simply a string of stories but are told for a particular reason, generally to get the story-teller out of some difficulty or danger. Indeed, in the most substantial of the books, *Kai Lung's Golden Hours*, is almost a novel, every one of the tales is narrated in order to postpone his own execution from day to day, rather like Scheherazade, and at the end he manages to turn the tables entirely on his unjust accuser.

The stories are strewn with mock-Chinese images, rubrics and proverbs—"It is a mark of insincerity of purpose to seek for the Emperor in the low-class tea-houses." "He who is compelled to share a cavern with a tiger learns to stroke the tiger's back." "In shallow water dragons

become the laughing-stock of crabs." "Each of which is delicately but perfectly fitted to the particular use made of it, the analogy it is designed to point up. And he can provide the seasaw with two ends: "Of the Mandarin himself those who know speak with vague lips. What is done is done by the pressing hand of one Ming-shu, who takes down his spoken word; of whom it is truly said that he bears little resemblance to a man and still less to an angel."

"Yes," protested the story-teller hopefully, "it is wisely written. He who never opens his mouth in strife can always close his eyes in peace." "Doubtless," assented the other, "he can close his eyes assuredly. Whether he will ever again open them is another matter." Even from those few examples I think that the gentle rhythm of the prose can be felt, but what cannot be conveyed by brief citations is the very crisp attitudes he held. To call them moral would be to risk overloading his fragile saunter, but they are: humble righteousness (which Kai Lung represents) is invariably victorious, and the stories them-

selves, though some of them are shot through with a touch of cynicism, are full of relish, generally show the grasping and the oppressive cast down. But whether Bramah is pointing some simple truth, or merely spinning his perturbed web, he is full of a thinking wit that keeps the reader with a perpetual smile of pleasure on his face. Try another sample, this one from a conversation between a youth reluctant to embark on matrimony and his grandfather urging him to it: "Is there not one Ning of the worthy line of Lo, dwelling beneath the emblem of a Sprouting Aloe?" "Truly," agreed the youth; "but as an early age has come under the malign influence of a spectral vampire, and in order to deceive the creature she was adopted to the navigable portion of the river here, and being pronounced as having Passed Above was henceforth regarded as a red muller."

"Yet in what detail does that deter you?" inquired Chang, in good condition of the son's expression, betrayed an acute absence of enthusiasm towards the maiden thus concerned. "Perchance the vampire was not deceased after all. In any case this person dislikes red

muller," replied the youth indifferently. Bramah can be serious, though still always within the intricate framework of the conventional uses: there is one fine tale, for instance, which is really a horror-story, and several of martial valour and the like, though in those too he does not fail to draw his firm conclusions, in which courage and loyalty are held up as qualities to be desired. (He does not, however, lose sympathy with Shweik-like malingers, of whom he provides a richly-filled gallery.)

As I have suggested, it is rare for me to find a fellow-enthusiast for these concoctions, though I am in good company in my taste for them: among his admirers have been Belloc, Jobo Buchan, Cissing, Bret Harze, George Moore, Quiller-Couch, Shaw, Dorothy Sayers, and Israel Zangwill. I have even know whether any of his books are in print; but if there is any Kai Lungian bookseller reading this column, let him take it as an order for copies, in good condition, of *The Moon of Much Gladness*, *The Mirror of Kong Ho*, and *Kai Lung Beneath the Mulberry Tree*. © Times Newspapers Ltd, 1977.

## Food, glorious food—and the long wait ends

Having listened for more years than I care to remember to the workhouse boys from *Oliver!* vainly sighing for food glorious food, I felt distinctly relieved on Wednesday night to watch them tucking into a feast.

Not only that, but unlike Dickens's pathetic original, they were asked for more—and were given it.

Lionel Barr's lyrics inspired the menu: hot sausage and mustard, cold jelly and custard, pease pudding and savoyes, puddings and cream. The "great big steak" emerged as beef casserole, but I heard not a single complaint.

*Oliver!* has taken up residence in London, at the Albany, after a rip-roaring provincial tour. For Wednesday night's after-the-show gourmandizing, cast and guests erupted on to the stage from the auditorium.

Dodging the midnight saveloy munchers, I managed to have a word with Mr Barr himself. He is now solvent once again and looks it. He is acting as consultant on the present

revival of *Oliver!* and still seems confident that *Quasimodo*, his musical version of the Hugo novel which has been an on-off idea since the early Sixties, will open in London some time next year. He would not reveal his choice for the role of the hunchback.

I liked the way he summed up the essential difference between *Oliver!* and *Quasimodo*. *Oliver!*'s basic theme is: What is Love? *Quasimodo*'s theme will be: What is ugliness?

An hour earlier I had watched a spotlight smite Mr Barr as he stood up in the stalls to acknowledge the rousers of the first-night audience. It was a demonstration of warmth that stopped just short of hysteria.

Memories stirred... the night, now almost historic, in the same theatre (though it was then *The New*) when *Oliver!* took its bow in the West End. Could it really be as long ago as June 30, 1960?

I hope nobody is going to get all hot under the collar about the column marked WOG on invoices from *Heat's*, the department store. It means, simply, *With Other Goods*.

## Strong counter attack in defence of the gnome

I have called down on my head the wrath of gnome-lovers because of my less than ecstatic reception of the oweis that a Gnome Club of Great Britain is being planned. I am accused of being unfeeling, unimaginative, pompous and insulting. That final charge worries me the most. It implies that there really could be such things as gnomes, and the dread inference I draw from that sentiment is that the projected club might become a reality after all.

A milder reproach, in the form of a shrewdly timed PR exercise, comes from the new English Library. They have sent me a copy of a supposedly produced book called *Gnomes* which strikes me as being the ultimate in leg-pulls.

Wil Huygen's text on the life style of the gnome is straightforward and affectionate and the many colour illustrations by Rien Poortvliet should make garden-gnome manufacturers blanch their heads in shame at their own crude handiwork.

My only fear is that the book makes out such a convincing case for the existence of the gnome that the more incensed of my critics will send me a copy of it, hearing some such legend as "Boo sucks: now try saying there aren't such things!" To save him (or her) the expense, I refer him/her to an editorial note on the jacket. It refers, without ambiguity, to "made-up reality".

## When K stands for compromise

Knoodler's, the famous old firm of New York art dealers, taken over by the oil magnate Armand Hammer in 1971, is reuniting its London branch in New Bond Street.

The New York gallery's new managing director, Lawrence Rubin, has persuaded John Kasmin to form an equal partnership called Knoodler Kasmin Ltd and run the gallery in revamped premises at Savoy and Moore House, opposite Sotheby's.

The lively and much liked Mr Kasmin has his own gallery near by in Bond Street from 1962 to 1972, where he showed such artists as David Hockney, whom he still represents, and leading American abstract painters like Frank Stella, the subject of his opening exhibition with Knoodler.

After closing the Kasmin Gallery he dealt for five years from first floor premises in Clifford Street. His old partner, Lord Dufferin and Ava is remaining with him. By the time Mr Hammer took over Knoodler's, it had lost a good deal of the reflected glory of its heyday, when it helped build most of the big American

## Some do's and don'ts for America's Everyman

Though and thoughtful as always, the United States Air Force has provided British journalists visiting Berlin with a document entitled *Customs in Germany*. It contains advice for newly arrived servicemen.

It tells them, for example, about attitudes: "Unfortunately, the typical American in the eyes of many Europeans is a rich, rosy, loud, impolite, boastful, and impatient."

What is most useful, I suspect, is the explanation of the natives' habits. "When Germans eat, the fork is held in the left hand and the knife in the right, cutting each bite just before eating it. The food is carried with fork in the left hand."

"Also, when eating food which needs no cutting, the hand not in use is put on the table next to the plate, contrary to the American custom of placing it on the lap. A special fish knife is used when eating fish."

## Why the eagle had to go

Archbishop Seraphim, the Orthodox Primate of Greece, is obliged to change completely the design of his personal standard—a black, byzantine double-headed eagle set against a yellow-gold background—when he found that it looked very much like the emblem of a well-known football team.

It appears that every time he grove past in his limousine with his flag flying, the team's supporters would cheer or hurl abuse, depending on the team's performance in their last match. The new standard carries the byzantine monogram of Jesus-X with a superimposed F.

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Mark with your bonnets facing the fence, says a car park sign, obviously aimed at the ladies, on the Culloden battle site.

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**John Foord**  
 CHARTERED  
 SURVEYORS

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

**John Foord**  
 PLANT AND  
 MACHINERY  
 VALUERS

### Brussels fixes minimum import prices on 140 steel products

By Michael Hornsby  
 Brussels, Dec 29

Minimum prices for some 140 steel imports into the EEC have been fixed by the European Commission and were today forwarded to member states for enforcement from January 1, 1978.

The Commission also announced new guideline prices for 10 types of steel product which EEC steelmakers will be asked to observe on the Community's internal market.

Exact minimum import prices, whose imposition for three months was agreed earlier this month by ministers of foreign affairs and trade, will be announced officially tomorrow. But, according to informed sources in Brussels, they will on average be about 7 per cent below the EEC's internal guideline prices.

Community steel companies will be prohibited from aligning their prices on these cheaper imports. Foreign suppliers will thus continue to enjoy a competitive edge.

During the period the minimum or "basic" import prices are in force, the Commission will seek "voluntary" restraint agreements, covering price and quantity, with the main suppliers: Japan, Brazil, Korea, Spain, Finland, the European Free Trade Association and East European countries.

Speaking to the consultative committee of the European Coal and Steel Community in Luxembourg yesterday, Viscount Deakin, the EEC Commissioner for Industrial Policy, said the Commission would be "keeping a very close watch" on the national aid granted to the steel industry.

Next April, Viscount Deakin said, the Commission would be announcing output and capacity targets for 1985, and it would need to be satisfied that national subsidies were in line with these objectives. Member states would be making "the grave error" if they imagined that minimum import prices and other measures were a substitute for a fundamental rationalization of the EEC's steel industry.

The Commission's latest measures are designed to shore up the sagging steel market pending more far-reaching structural reforms.

Capacity utilization is running at no more than 60 per cent. Output this year is estimated at about 126 million tonnes, compared with 134.2 million tonnes last year. In present trends, it would decline still further to some 120 million tonnes in 1978.

The new guideline prices for the internal market are about 5 per cent higher than existing prices. There will be another 5 per cent rise on April 1, followed by a third 5 per cent increase later in the year, the timing being dependent on market developments.

New prices (per tonne) are as follows: cold-rolled sheet, £201.50; sheet other than strip, £156; quarto sheet, £151.50; thin plate, £156; wire rod, £168; ordinary mild steel concrete reinforcing bars (rebars), £135; high yield rebars, £140; merchant bars, £160; and hot-rolled coils, £156.

In addition, compulsory minimum prices have been fixed for the following: rebars (ordinary mild steel), £130; rebars (high yield), £134.50; merchant bars, £155.50; and hot-rolled coils, £151.50. Hitherto mandatory prices existed only for rebars.

### Uncertainty over new Federal Reserve Board chairman increases money market pressure

## Dollar slips further against all currencies

By Caroline Atkinson

The dollar lost ground against all major currencies on the foreign exchanges yesterday in the wake of President Carter's decision not to reappoint Dr Arthur Burns as the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board when his term expires at the end of January.

Mr William Miller, who will be the new chairman, is virtually unknown and the markets fear he may not exert such a strong conservative influence on policy as Dr Burns.

As the dollar has dropped this year one factor cited by dealers for its weakness has been the uncertainty over the future of Dr Burns. He has been a firm advocate of a strong dollar as well as being opposed to too much expansion in America.

His position as chairman was felt to be a guarantee that the American money supply would be kept under control, and that policies which would weaken the dollar would be avoided as much as possible.

Sterling climbed further, partly on the back of the dollar's weakness, and touched \$1.9275 at one point. It closed the day at \$1.91, 1.5 cents up on the day. It was also firmer against other currencies and the effective rate index, measured against a basket of currencies, rose to 65.4 in the morning. This is the highest it has reached since the recovery in sterling's fortunes began last autumn. It came down a little to finish at 65.2.

The market was still thin and too much should not be read into the rate movements. However, most dealers expect that the weakness of the dollar and the strength of the pound will continue.

In the afternoon there was a little buying back of dollars as some dealers felt that it had been oversold. Nevertheless it closed the day at a new low against the Deutsche mark of DM2.09 and against the Swiss franc of SwF2.01.

Its effective rate depreciation widened still further to -5.02 compared with -4.58 yesterday.

In recent weeks the Canadian dollar has held its ground against the United States dollar whereas earlier in the year it fell even further than the American currency. The effective rate of the American dollar has thus fallen much more sharply in the last weeks.

The weakness began in Tokyo yesterday morning. The Bank of Japan intervened very heavily to hold down the yen and managed to bring it back within the 240 level by the close.

Japan's currency has not been at the forefront of the currency turmoil in the last month, but many people now expect it to strengthen again in dollar terms. The Japanese Government may find it impossible to hold the 240 level for into the New Year.

It seems almost certain that when the markets get into full swing next week there will be further pressure on the dollar. The European central banks were not intervening in an obvious way yesterday.

Figures published yesterday showed that there was a very sharp rise in the German official reserves in the first three weeks in December as a result of the intervention then. This could pose a danger to German monetary control.

### Warning on property and land price explosion

By John Huxley

A warning that land and house prices could explode if planners overreact to the "inner city fashion" and refuse to zone new land for building round the cities was given yesterday.

Mr Andrew Tait, director general of the National House-Building Council, said that there had been signs recently that land prices were rising dangerously high in some areas. Although the NHBC, which is the official consumer watchdog over private housing, wished to see greater cooperation between local authorities and the private sector in inner-city participation schemes, it also recognized the need for more land to be zoned for housing outside urban areas.

"We cannot realistically build in the inner cities more than a small proportion of the 170,000 new houses which the Government Green Paper on housing postulated the private sector might build.

"There is a great need for politicians, local authorities and planners to have more regard for the interests of the person who wants to buy a house in an area where he does not already live. No one represents him at planning inquiries," Mr Tait said.

"The result has been that we have never, since the war, noted any sufficiently far ahead of demand. Had the market been flooded with land then land prices would have been lower, consumers would have had better homes at less cost, speculators would have had their fingers burned."

In comments on the Green Paper submitted yesterday to the Secretary of State for the Environment, the NHBC says land is the key issue, and that there is evidence to show that the consumer is being penalized because builders are buying scarce land at inflated prices.

It suggests that local authorities in the south-east of England, for instance, do not fully understand the difference between the "best" plots which should have only planning permission, and on the other, plots with planning permission, plus some prospect of infrastructure in places where people want to live.

A factor holding up development, the NHBC says, is "the mutual suspicion between planners and builders, and the unwillingness of some planning authorities to behave in a businesslike way, delegating matters of detail to their officers."

The NHBC's comments also contain a proposal that those buying newly-built houses should pay reduced local authority rates for the first five years after occupation. The cost, it suggests, could be met by revenue from development land tax.

Because almost all new rented housing is exempt from the tax, the NHBC suggests it is only right that those who buy a new house—those who ultimately pay the tax—should have partial exemption. "Otherwise, there might be thought to be discrimination against buyers—most of them young people on modest incomes."

The NHBC suggests that the reduction of rates through development land tax credits could be helpful in attracting people back to private housing, in the inner cities.

"It is not yet easy to attract buyers to formerly unattractive areas where there may be a fear of vandals or worse. But it has been shown in the United States that owner-occupiers will defend their property."

"Once a few successful experiments are carried out, the area of more balanced development in inner cities might take root."

### Widespread welcome for the new Fed chief

From David Cross  
 Washington, Dec 29

In spite of some disappointment that President Carter has seen fit to replace Dr Burns, the business community in particular has generally welcomed the choice of Mr Miller.

The Washington establishment, too, is happy about his appointment. "Although Mr Miller is largely an unknown quantity in the American capital, he has a reputation as a pragmatic and highly competent business leader."

Even the trade unions, who made no secret of their dislike for Dr Burns' tight money policy, have been quick to endorse the nomination.

The business community is particularly delighted that President Carter has chosen one of their own to head an organization which has played an independent role in the running of the country's economy.

Many people regard the chairman of the Fed as the second most influential American leader after the President. Mr Miller was the chief of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York during the last recession and prevented a speedy recovery," Mr Meany maintained.

Predictably, Republican members of Congress have been less enthusiastic about Dr Burns' impending removal from office. Senator Jacob Javits of New York said he regretted that President had missed an opportunity to make "a major positive contribution to sustaining and improving business recovery" by failing to reappoint Dr Burns. He hoped that Mr Miller would bring to the chairmanship of the Fed "the necessary qualities and policies."

Exactly what economic line Mr Miller will take when he assumes office at the end of next month after approval by the Senate remains to be seen. But most commentators here expect him to devote more attention to job creation than his predecessor.

The main criticism of the staunchly conservative Dr Burns by the White House and other liberals was that he concentrated too much on the need to fight inflation and to prop up the dollar rather than stimulating employment.

Mr Miller is expected to be more liberal. In a speech in Pittsburgh last January he said he supported a broad new economic stimulus programme to create more jobs, starting with a need to hamper the continuing fight against inflation.

He also suggested the government should consider preparing "selective" government controls on the economy as "acceptable medicine" when "mushrooms of inflation" popped up. And he supported new tax cuts for industry.

Mr Carter's new appointee is hoped Dr Burns would agree to stay on the board of the Fed as a governor as he had earlier indicated he might.

Mr Miller, it is said, there would be other openings for him in the government in the economic, foreign affairs or human rights sectors, Mr Carter promised.



Mr Miller speaks to journalists after his appointment as chairman of Fed. With him is Dr Burns, left, Mrs Miller and President Carter.

### How Mr Miller proved himself in America's tough business world

By Our Economics Staff

Mr William Miller, the new chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, built his career during the past 20 years in one of the most successful and financially sound of the American conglomerates.

The plan fell through partly because of worries about allegations of fraud by Lockheed in connection with a shipbuilding contract with the United States government.

Mr Miller has been Chairman of the Textron group since 1974, and is a director of a number of other corporations. He has been a member of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston for the past six years.

Pluck, determination and decisiveness are his strong points, some colleagues said. He's very tough, very decisive. He cannot be pushed around. They will find him as intransigent as Arthur Burns if he feels he's right," a close friend said.

He recalled that Mr Miller allowed subordinates honest mistakes but became "very impatient with incompetence."

He also had a good memory, and was able to give a detailed account of wide-ranging company activities in his head and to recall for his executives facts they might have mentioned in a conversation months ago.

Although committed to the success of his business, Mr Miller is also known for his long hours of work, he has also been active in other fields.

He has served as head of a national businessmen's association for providing jobs for the underprivileged and was also the first Chairman of the Industry Advisory Committee on equal employment opportunity set up by President Kennedy.

Mr Miller has also been in the vanguard of seeking closer ties with Eastern European countries and the Soviet Union as chairman of the United States-Polish Trade Council and of the United States-USSR Trade Council.

In recent speeches he has indicated his support for a broad fiscal stimulus to the American economy, and his generally easy-going manner may make it easier for him to stay on good terms with Congress as the end-year reviews of the Administration than Dr Burns found it.

### Two BSC lines dearer

By Peter Hill  
 Industrial Correspondent

New prices for two major product lines were announced by the British Steel Corporation last night. The increases are in line with new minimum prices agreed by the EEC and approved by the Council of Ministers. They affect hot-rolled coil and cold-rolled coil.

In addition, the state steel undertaking, which in the current financial year is expected to record a deficit of at least £500m, announced that it was to lift the price of its hot-rolled products by about 6 per cent from January 1; the last increase, of 6.4 per cent, was in July.

BSC said the price of hot-rolled coil will be increased by £7 a tonne, a 5 per cent increase. The last rise in hot-rolled coil prices was of 10 per cent, in October, 1976.

Subsequently, against the background of a continued deterioration in the steel market, the corporation introduced a temporary £10 a tonne rebate in February this year so that the latest increase covers the price below that set in October, 1976.

Cold-rolled coil is also being increased in price from January 1 by £3.50 a tonne, or 3 per cent. Price of cold-rolled coil were last increased in September this year, by £18.40 a tonne, which reflected pressure from the EEC Commission.

### Commission allows 3pc soda ash rise and opens ICI investigation

By Derek Harris  
 Commercial Editor

Only part of a proposed price increase for soda ash, a major constituent in glassmaking—was allowed yesterday by the Price Commission to Imperial Chemical Industries.

The company had wanted a 5.6 per cent rise, the third in a row this year in the commodity of which ICI holds a total production monopoly in Britain.

In the event the increase will be only about 3 per cent.

The Commission will now open out its three-month investigation of this part of ICI's activities and there is expected to be particularly close scrutiny of how far the company is operating efficiently while in a monopoly position.

ICI will inevitably face close questioning on the pricing of major investments which it has made for some time to modernize and renovate plant. Reorganization is a particular problem in soda ash production because it involves criss-crossing the ash or sodium carbonate being a mixture of limestone and salt.

The Commission is expected to ask ICI to specify how far it has been passing investment costs straight through to customers.

Last night the company confirmed that the latest phase of soda ash investment, to which it was committed last year, amounted to £17m. Of this not quite £5m was going on modernization and renovation work. It is understood that ICI would be allowed to raise the price of soda ash by £2 a tonne, representing about 3 per cent. ICI had sought an ex-works price rise of £3.50 a tonne.

Earlier this year ICI raised soda ash prices—in June by nearly 5.5 per cent, and in March by 6.5 per cent. Glass manufacturers are among the largest users of soda ash, taking up around 60 per cent of ICI's production. It is also used in making detergents, in certain chemical processes and in metal finishes.

Because there is a world shortage of soda ash users say that in Britain ICI is the only practicable source of supply.

### Cod gas field starts production in N Sea

The Cod Gas and condensate field in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea is now in production. The 900,000 barrels of oil and 90 million cu ft a day of gas is now flowing into the Ekofisk production complex about 50 miles to the south-east.

Phillips Petroleum, the operating company, has said that the field will produce up to 200,000 barrels a day.

### £2m machine tool deal for new Mini

By Clifford Webb

Leyland Cars yesterday announced the biggest machine tool order yet placed for the controversial new Mini project (ADO 88)—a £2m line of body panel presses to be installed at its Swindon plant.

The announcement will be seen in some quarters as pre-empting the decision of the executive panel now reviewing the future of the £250m project.

But the 800-ton Wilkins and Mitchell presses would be equally at home producing aluminium for LC 10, the new Mini saloon originally planned for 1981.

Some influential Leyland executives would prefer to see it launched in late 1979, ahead of ADO 88. Presses of this type can be switched from one car to another simply by changing their tooling.

More than half the £400m investment already committed to ADO 88 is to provide two welding and fire assembly lines at Longbridge. A further £13m is being spent on fully automated body welding equipment.

Yesterday's announcement also revealed that the new presses will be linked by labour saving automated transfer equipment. Contracts for this will be placed.

The £2m order means that Wilkins and Mitchell, the Darwen, Staffordshire, heavy press manufacturers, have received orders totalling £10m in a little over a month.

They include a £2.25m order from Vauxhall. Messrs A Wilkins and Mitchell spokesman said this gave the company one of its healthiest order books for a long time.

But other machine tool companies are far from happy with continuing delays in Leyland orders.

Last year Leyland Cars forecast that they would spend an average of £45m a year for the next 10 years on United Kingdom machine tools. But it is now clear that in 1977 it fell short of this forecast by some £15m.

### Laid up tankers may store oil

Plans by Japan to use up to 25 laid-up oil tankers as storage units could lead to a substantial improvement in the tanker market.

According to a spokesman for the Oslo-based International Association of Independent Tanker Owners Japan intends to use the tankers, each of 250,000 tons deadweight, to store crude oil. The ships may be taken out of lay-up next May.

There are now about 65 vessels of this size in lay-up. In its end-year review the organization said that last month the world tanker fleet amounted to 329.2 million tons with an order book of 20.8 million tons. Of the present tanker tonnage on order about 75 per cent is scheduled to be delivered before the end of 1979.

The organization also noted that tankers were being scrapped at a faster rate than they were being built.

### How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
Assam Frontier 20p to 390p	Ayer Hitam 10p to 260p
Commodity 5p to 65p	Geover Tin 15p to 490p
Commodity 6p to 65p	Glass 6p to 700p
Estates Prop 7p to 120p	Gongong Cons 15p to 270p
SGS 8p to 235p	Hunting Assoc 5p to 215p
Hunting Assoc 8p to 235p	Messias Trans 6p to 100p
Jarvis J 19p to 185p	Nyson Grp 3p to 9p
Lydenburg Plat 4p to 58p	
	Photo-Me 5p to 270p
	Com Cons 'B' 5p to 55p
	Shell 10p to 530p
	South Malay 10p to 235p
	Southern 5p to 51p
	Tecoh Mines 10p to 185p
	Zagata Corp 75p to £11.25
	Gold rose \$1.5 an ounce to \$166.125.
	SDR-\$ was 1.2154 on Thursday, while SDR-£ was 0.63399.
	Commodities: Rector's Index was at 1417.4 (previous 1417.7).
	Reports, pages 17, 18 and 19

### THE POUND

Bank	Bank
Buy	Sell
Australia \$ 1.68	1.68
Austria Sch 30.25	28.25
Belgium Fr 65.25	62.25
Canada \$ 2.13	2.08
Denmark Kr 16.37	16.33
Finland Mk 7.90	7.65
France Fr 9.22	8.90
Germany Dm 4.19	3.97
Greece Dr 79.50	75.50
Italy Lr 1700.00	1640.00
Japan Yen 483.00	458.00
Netherlands Gld 4.54	4.32
Norway Kr 16.08	15.71
Portugal Esc 87.50	82.50
S Africa Rd 1.95	1.83
Spain Ptas 164.00	158.00
Sweden Kr 9.19	8.84
Switzerland Fr 9.12	8.69
US \$ 1.95	1.90
Yugoslavia Dnr 38.75	36.75

### Container expansion

Expansion of container services in the Far East between Hongkong and Australia, via Taiwan and the Philippines was announced yesterday by partners in the Asia Australian Express service. Both AAE and the Hongkong-based Orient Overseas Container Line have each contracted for two new cellular container vessels designed for the trade, due for delivery between next August and November.

Australian National Line is to lengthen two existing ships-on the service, both of them believed building in Japan.

### Details of textile import curbs next week

Details of new textile import restrictions will be published in the Department of Trade's Journal 27 and Industry on January 6. Existing surveillance licences for goods being restricted for the first time will be revoked from this Saturday and importers of these goods will be required to apply for new licences.

After the meeting of the Council of Ministers in Brussels last week, agreements negotiated between the EEC and supply countries will be operated from January 1. Restrictions will also be imposed on Taiwan, although details of quota coverage and levels are not yet available.

### UK Japan steel venture

Nippon Kokan, a Japanese steel company, is to use British designs and technological expertise to build and install a continuous casting machine at its Fukuyama works.

Under the terms of an agreement signed with the Davy-Loewy research and development centre in Bedford, the Japanese will manufacture most of the machinery, but certain items, including the computer control system, will be supplied by Davy-Loewy, from the United Kingdom.

**MAYNARDS LIMITED**

Notice is hereby given of the appointment of Lloyds Bank Limited as Registrar.

All documents for registration and correspondence should in future be sent to:-

Lloyds Bank Limited,  
 Registrar-Department,  
 Goring-by-Sea,  
 Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6DA.  
 Telephone: Worthing 502541  
 (STD Code 0903).

D. M. MARTIN, A.C.I.S., A.I.P.M.,  
 Secretary.

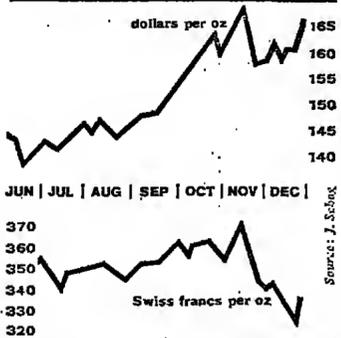
BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Wall Street and the dollar

It has been a miserable year on Wall Street. Volume in the market may have been close to record levels, but since much of it generated by institutions profits were at best moderately good for brokers. Prospects of a radical reshaping of the securities business have undoubtedly contributed to the dismal performance of Wall Street.

happened throughout the Far East region, although domestic factors in individual countries were obviously important as well. As domestic demand in Japan slumped, and growth became more and more dependant on exports, the markets responded to worries about demand for raw materials, the appreciation of the yen, and the impact on their own industries of imports from Japan.

GOLD AND THE DOLLAR



Gold has moved up smartly since just before Christmas reflecting the weakness of the dollar, and now uncertainty over future United States fiscal policies following news that Mr William Miller is to succeed Dr Burns as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Europe: the end of transition

Financial systems: a tortuous road towards harmonization

As one of the leading advocates of British membership of the European Economic Community, the City's high hopes at the time of entry five years ago have so far not been realized in any significant expansion of its activity in Europe.

British Insurance Association, have been vocal in condemning the absence of any progress despite initiatives taken by the United Kingdom Government to speed up negotiations.

Ronald Pullen and (below) David Blake conclude our examination of aspects of Britain's relations with the EEC at the end of the transitional period of membership

(such as nationally requirements) elsewhere in Europe. It is however the out-turn has been rather less than the intention with previous little two-way flow between EEC countries.

work has been adopted which can be refined in time. Company law is one area where harmonization is about to have a profound effect on United Kingdom practice, although the first directive in force on accession has made little impact on business life.

Europe/Far East

Realism and high expectations

Against a background of stagnating industrial production in OECD countries, only the German Commerzbank Index among the main continental bourses indices recorded a year-on-year rise during 1977.

As the negotiations for Britain's entry into the EEC neared their climax in 1972, the original six member states were drawing up their own agreement on what was meant to be the next great step forward for the Community.

are generally known as the "super-criterion". Under the super-criterion rules (which will be eased this weekend) investment abroad has to pay for itself in balance of payments terms.

where the exchange rate is much less favorable to sterling than in the normal markets. But the 25 per cent surrender rule, under which a quarter of the foreign currency brought in by a project had to be coupled with a limit of £250,000 on the amount of money which could be invested using this channel, meant that little investment has taken place using the super-criterion rules.

Community ever since its inception. Britain has been able to do the same because it has, until this year, been in continuous deficit on its balance of payments account.

whelming. This is for two main reasons. First, the actual impact of exchange controls on the volume of foreign investment has been nothing like as great as their more extreme supporters argue.

Little progress on exchange controls

Coming to terms with the information explosion

The pressing problems of science and society are being tackled by the first time in history, she added, computerized information retrieval is widespread and economically viable as evidenced by the volume of machine-readable records, databases, on-line software packages, vendors of on-line systems, search services and searches.

This month, four further United Kingdom additions to Dialog were announced: on geology, paper, textiles and information-handling science. Over 100 companies are listed in the membership directory of the Information Industry Association in the United States.

Kenneth Owen Technology Correspondent

Business Diary: A quiz for the year's end

- 1 Who said: "My basic economic convictions were and are perfectly correct, although... they are still not much understood or indeed shared?"
- 2 A big British company—a household name—celebrated its centenary this year. Even though it celebrated its fiftieth anniversary only in 1938, which?
- 3 The chairman of a British public company and one of his directors, a peer, made American legal history this year. Who and how?
- 4 Which self-styled "revolutionary capitalist" said: "It is very difficult to convince the City?"
- 5 Name the company which this year made its fourth rights issue in 10 years?
- 6 Et you couldn't name the chairman of the Post Office.
- 7 Or the successor to Sir Ronald Meinhart as the director-general of Ncdco.
- 8 A car manufacturer caused a stir in October this year by becoming the biggest importer of the month. Any ideas?
- 9 What is a hogg?
- 10 Who was the French hotelier who found there was no room at the inn?
- 11 Would you say that Air Commodore the Hon Peter Bedford-Rutgers Vanneck is the 430th, 500th, 659th or 750th Lord Mayor of London?



Who called "Time, gentlemen, please!" on Britain's largest union and why?

12 What is the smallest trade union in Britain?

13 And which union has the most women members?

14 Which country has the biggest beef "mountain" in the EEC?

15 Which EEC country is generally reckoned to have had the highest growth rate in the Community this year? If you don't know, the answer might surprise you.

16 No marks for guessing who said, five days before the pound was allowed to float in October, that we would run into serious problems in remaining price competitive overseas if the pound rose.

17 Where was the £10,000 suit modelled this year?

18 Who described a pay rise of 10 per cent as "an incredible neglect of public duty"?

19 The pound rose against the Deutsche mark in the year to Christmas Eve by 0.5 per cent, 6.5 per cent or 10 per cent. Which, if any?

20 Why could there be personal as well as financial reasons behind AT&T's decision to bid for Madame Tussaud's?

ANSWERS: 1. Lord Grade is bidding to return to the City. 2. ICI. 3. Sir William Whitely. 4. Sir William Whitely. 5. ICI. 6. Sir William Whitely. 7. Sir William Whitely. 8. ICI. 9. A hogg is a pig. 10. The Hon Peter Bedford-Rutgers Vanneck. 11. The 430th Lord Mayor of London. 12. The Gildersleeves. 13. The Gildersleeves. 14. The Gildersleeves. 15. The Gildersleeves. 16. Sir William Whitely. 17. The Gildersleeves. 18. The Gildersleeves. 19. The Gildersleeves. 20. The Gildersleeves.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Improving the standard of home insulation

From Mr J. G. Sunley... It is encouraging to see that the British Government is following the lead given by the United States of America in introducing an energy conservation programme...

A remedy for inflation

From Mr James Lunt... Inflation, rising price, is due to wages being too high relative to production. If total take-home pay increases, then...

Environmental needs and the tunnel

From Dr Jonathan Wood... Sir, Before all the environmental lobby rusb to support John Whitehouse (December 19) in opposing the construction of a Channel tunnel and its rail links...

and goods traffic. Ideally there should be no access to the Channel rail link at any point south of the M25 motorway route.

Britain's industrial performance

From Mr Graham R. Nudd... Sir, As an expatriate engineer the present state of Britain's industrial performance is most interesting. Perhaps, the most surprising thing is not that the engineering "profession" is so dismal...

Transfers exempt from CTT

From Mr Martin Davis... Sir, Mr David Marks (December 20) writes of the businessman "debarred" by capital transfer tax, he would have us believe...

Engineering exports still in decline

By Edward Townsend... Exports by Britain's engineering industries continue to decline. According to latest figures from the Department of Industry, new orders from overseas fell 4 per cent in the first quarter of 1978...

Lord Robens urges independent energy commission to avoid 'debacle of 1960s'

By Ronald Kershaw... Strong criticism of the Government and the Civil Service for the energy 'debacle of the 1960s' is contained in his review of a book by Dr Israel Berkovitch, 'Coal on the Switchback' (George Allen and Unwin, £7). He admits that while it has not been his policy to comment on the coal industry since he left it, writing the review enables him to 'lift the lid a little further'.

Electricity gas used

1 Who said... 2 A big B... 3 The... 4 Which... 5 Nat... 6 Ec... 7 was... 8 and... 9 Deep... 10 Deliveries...

Product liability issue worries BETA

By Stephen Goodwin... In recommendations made to the Government, the Business Equipment Trade Association is opposing proposals that manufacturers should be strictly liable for personal injuries caused by defects in their products, irrespective of fault or limit of time in which the product has been used.

'Year of the manager' call

A call to make 1978 'the year of the manager' comes from Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the British Institute of Management Council, in his new year message to the BIM's 57,000 individual members and 12,000 member organizations.

Docks Board to buy Hull group

British Transport Docks Board is to buy the Hull Superintending and Tallying Company, which provides specialist checking services for cargoes through the port.

Business appointments

Shell UK elects a new managing director

Mr A. V. Fairclough, a director of Shell UK and managing director of Shell Chemicals UK, has been elected managing director of Shell UK. Mr W. C. Thomson, chairman of Shell Chemicals UK and a director of Shell UK, has been elected managing director of Shell UK.

Mr Michael Butler has been made treasurer and deputy director-general, Finance Department, National Coal Board, from January 1. He succeeds Mr Douglas Wright, who is retiring.

Mr D. P. Taody has become a director of Property Growth Assurance.

Mr Reg Cooney has joined the board of British Relay (Electronics).

Mr E. Goodall, Mr J. Koyman and Mr J. Moss have become members of the Furniture Development Council.

Mr P. Whitehead has joined the board of Sandhurst Marketing.

Mr Alex Smith has been made chairman and managing director of Upjohn.

Mr David Mason is to become managing director of Reliance Hosiery (Hull). He succeeds Mr Faraz Peters, who is retiring.

Mr N. Cowie has been made a director of Teddington Machine Parts.

Mr A. W. Furse is to be a director of Joseph Shakespear from January 1.

Mr Harry Horsby has been made director of the Process Plant Association from January 3.

Mr Peter Duxbury of Walker & Rice is to be the first chairman of the recently formed British Fabric Association from April 1.

Mr L. H. C. Livingston-Learmonth has been elected to succeed Mr W. T. Dunne as chairman of Tin Publications.

Mr Geoffrey Moss is the new chairman of Edbro (Scotland) since its acquisition by Edbro (Holdings).

Mr R. C. Huber has gone on to the board of A. D. International. Mr H. Bauernfeind is to retire.

Mr John Harper has been confirmed as assistant managing director, Post Office Telecommunications, from January 1.

Mr R. C. Nightingale, director of property investment of The Property Unit Trusts Group, is to be chief executive from January.

Mr N. Berry succeeds Mr J. D. Oden as chairman of Futura Holdings on January 1.

Mr Guy Neely has been financial director and secretary of Ideal Standard, its new vice-president, control and finance of Ideal-Standard Europe.

Mr Colin Wise, joint managing and financial director of the United Kingdom operation of Ideal-Standard, is now vice-president, control and finance of Ideal-Standard Europe.

Mr I. Douglas Lowe has been made an executive member of the board of Bruntons (Hasselburgh) with the position of assistant managing director.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Bargain hunters buy short gilts and leave most shares alone

Share prices continued to edge ahead but in far less spectacular fashion than on Tuesday. With some commentators casting doubts on the OECD forecasts for inflation and others pointing out the disadvantages to exporters of a strong pound investors decided that renewed caution was the best policy.

Up went E. Fogarty (pillows and quilts) up to 140p a fortnight ago. It was announced one-for-four scrip issue in preference shares with a 10.5 per cent coupon net equal to 15.9 per cent gross. Now the ordinary shares are just 141p. After from continuing the group trustee status the preference shares should command par value. If so, shareholders will collect an extra 25p of preference share for every 100 ordinary shares they own. After the issue the ordinary dividend will still be 5.5 times covered by profits; and these are growing well.

In the gilt-edged market a strong currency and interest rate hopes centred most demand at the short end. Here gains stretched up to half a point and the Government Broker activated the short "tap" at 95 15/16 before withdrawing. He is expected to return at 97 matching the price in the market.

EIB lends £91m to UK utilities

Six loans totalling £91.2m have been granted to various British public utilities by European Investment Bank, the EEC's long-term finance institution. The largest, worth £52.3m, goes to the Electricity Council on a 15-year term at 8.65 per cent. The loan will help meet the construction cost of a power station at Heysham, Lancashire.

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Over in plantations Assam Frontier continued its volatile existence on takeover hopes, this time rising 20p to 390p, while Plantation Holdings gained 5p to 55p on reorganization plans. Comment was good for rises of 10p to 235p for motor dealer Pride & Clarke and of 3p to 78p for Rustenburg. In a generally dull brewery sector speculative demand made a feature of Beckett which closed 8p to the good at 146p.

White gold shares continued to go ahead, in some cases by as much as 50p, tins collapsed in line with the metal price. Worst hit were Gopeng,

which slumped 15p to 270p, Kiata Kollas where the fall was 13p to 182p, Geveor which dipped 15p to 490p and South Croft which ended 5p down at 61p.

Among speculative stocks strong features were to be found in Brent Chemical which gained another 6p to 204p, United Scientific 4p to 209p, De Vere Hotels, 3p to 173p or further small buying and Wilkinson Match which ended at 213p, after early strength on hopes of an all-out bid from the Allegheny Company of the United States.

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For once the clearing bank did not move in concert, both National Westminster at 250p and Lloyds at 232p closed up but there was no movement from Midland at 320p and Barclays at 340p.

Down at 290p for a couple of weeks Oil Exploration was suddenly back in favour with a spectacular rise of 15p to 206p. The word is that the much-rumoured talks with an American oil group are under way again though dealers think Government approval for any such deal would be hard to win. The group has just drilled a new well in the Tachina Field.

In properties Estates Property added 6p to 83p while elsewhere H. Draxman closed 12p to the good at 119p. Conway Pope rose 6p to 65p. RST 6p to 65p. The group has just drilled a new well in the Tachina Field.

Latest results

Table with columns: Company, Sales, Profits, Earnings, Div., Pay, Year's. Includes companies like Barroora Bldgs, Brunell Beard, Change Wares, etc.

A 'small surplus' now in sight at Wilkins & Mitchell

By Tony May... A return to profits at Wilkins & Mitchell is definitely in sight. The first six months of the year is much the hardest time for this machine-tool and Servis washing-machine maker, with turnover dipping from £20.7m to £20.3m, pre-tax losses for the half year to October 1 increased from £508,000 to £611,000. But this is in line with the board's expectations at the start of the year that the second half would be the time to witness an improvement in the group's fortunes.

Philip Harris looks to second-half rise

A disappointing half-year saw pre-tax profits of Philip Harris drop from £30,000 to £27,000 for the six months to September 30 although the dividend was held at 1.3p net. The board says that a high volume of orders has been received, but economic conditions both at home and overseas have combined to give a decline in the average order value.

Baroora jumps as dividends resumed

A return to the dividend list for the first time since 1970 crowns a year which brought shares of Baroora Tea Holdings up from 10p last January to 10 1/2p yesterday. News of the group's 10p dividend sent the shares up a further 5p to leave them at 110p.

The Mid Kent Water Company. 'Continued Expansion and Development' reports Mr. A. W. White, the Chairman. The Annual General Meeting of The Mid Kent Water Company was held at the principal office of the Company, High Street, Snodland, Kent, on Thursday 29th December, 1977.



FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Bolivia is demanding higher price for tin

Bolivia says it will insist on demanding that the International Tin Council (ITC) sets higher prices for the metal when both producing and consuming countries meet in London next month.

Hudson's Bay puts copper price rise into effect

Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting company says that its previously announced increase in the price for full plate electrolytic copper cathode sold in Canada became effective yesterday.

Wall Street

New York, Dec. 29.—The New York stock market posted a small gain after recovering from a broad early loss.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was ahead 0.69 to 830.39. It was off over four points early in the session.

Silver gains 4.20c

COMMODITIES—Silver futures rose 4.20 cents to 10.40 a pound in London today, after a 1.50-cent gain in New York.

Commodities

LEAD was steady—Afternoon—Cash 104.00-104.50; 15 days 104.00-104.50; 30 days 104.00-104.50.

Table of stock prices for various companies including Allied Chem, Allied Sures, Allied Chemical, etc.

Foreign exchange—Sterling, spot, 1.6250-1.6250; 3 months, 1.6250-1.6250.

Foreign Exchange

Another broad advance by the pound yesterday largely reflected further weakness in the dollar.

Spot Position of Sterling

Market rates for sterling: New York 1.6250, London 1.6250, etc.

Money Market Rates

Overnight 10% Treasury Bill, 3 months 10%, 6 months 10%.

Forward Levels

1 month 10.00, 3 months 10.00, 6 months 10.00.

Gold

Gold futures on the NYMEX were up 1.00 to 100.00.

Enroboard prices (midday indicators)

Table of enroboard prices for various commodities like US Straights, etc.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Large table listing various financial products, their prices, and yields.

Recent Issues

Table of recent issues for various companies and funds.

Insurance Bonds and Funds

Table of insurance bonds and funds.

Offshore and International Funds

Table of offshore and international funds.

Bank Base Rates

Table of bank base rates for various banks.

Discount market

Money conditions on Lombard Street were very tight throughout yesterday.

Bank Base Rates

Table of bank base rates for various banks.

COPPER was steady at lower levels—Afternoon—Cash 104.00-104.50.

Table of bank base rates for various banks.

Underlying factors indicated the need for more liquidity and this was clearly shown by interbank money which climbed to about 11 per cent towards the finish.

Book balances were up slightly overnight, and there was a further decline to the non-circulation.

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Stock Exchange Prices  
Tone holds firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings End, Today. \$ Contango Day, Jan 3. Settlement Day, Jan 11  
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Main table of stock exchange prices with columns for stock names, prices, and changes. Includes sections for British Funds, Commercial and Industrial, Local Authorities, Foreign Stocks, Dollar Stocks, Banks and Discounts, Breweries and Distilleries, Financial Trusts, Insurance, Investment Trusts, and Property.

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES  
Table showing various share indices and their values.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly containing additional market information or advertisements.

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Readers are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering obligations.

TELEX TELEPHONE Answering or typing of telex messages, audio and video recording, etc. 01-503 6455.

FOR BUSINESSMEN: Insurance, Finance, Law, etc. 01-503 6455.

Fire Prevention and Appliances. EXTINGUISHERS, etc. all types. L. W. Service. 01-503 6455.

EDUCATIONAL. C.E.C. DEGREE and Professional courses. 01-503 6455.

PUBLIC NOTICES. THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Society of the Royal Society. 01-503 6455.

NOTICE. All applications for subject to the provisions of section 1 of the Companies Act 1948. 01-503 6455.

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS. DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA. Ministry of Hydraulic Engineering. 01-503 6455.

INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TO TENDER. International tenders are invited for the supply and installation of the whole of the electrical and electromechanical equipment needed for the sixteen (16) wells of the Bouleida water table. 01-503 6455.

Broadcasting. A comedy series about the plight of an English-language-for-foreigners teacher in south London should be funnier than this first programme. 01-503 6455.

7.35 pm BBC 2. A chance to see the British premiere of a very beautiful new Czech version of Andersen's Little Mermaid. 01-503 6455.

10.45 pm BBC 1. And at the end of the day, a last chance this year to see at least bits of all the fashionable films that we did not actually ever get round to going to see on the big screen. —I.R.R.

BBC 1. 9.30 am The Wombles. 9.55 Jackanory. 10.10 The Wanderer. 10.25 Adventure in the Danube Delta. 10.45 Film: Stay Away, Joe. 11.05 News. 11.25 The Great Hunt. 11.45 Film: The Three Musketeers. 12.05 News. 12.25 The Great Hunt. 12.45 Film: The Three Musketeers. 1.05 News. 1.25 The Great Hunt. 1.45 Film: The Three Musketeers. 2.05 News. 2.25 The Great Hunt. 2.45 Film: The Three Musketeers. 3.05 News. 3.25 The Great Hunt. 3.45 Film: The Three Musketeers. 4.05 News. 4.25 The Great Hunt. 4.45 Film: The Three Musketeers. 5.05 News. 5.25 The Great Hunt. 5.45 Film: The Three Musketeers. 6.05 News. 6.25 The Great Hunt. 6.45 Film: The Three Musketeers. 7.05 News. 7.25 The Great Hunt. 7.45 Film: The Three Musketeers. 8.05 News. 8.25 The Great Hunt. 8.45 Film: The Three Musketeers. 9.05 News. 9.25 The Great Hunt. 9.45 Film: The Three Musketeers. 10.05 News. 10.25 The Great Hunt. 10.45 Film: The Three Musketeers. 11.05 News. 11.25 The Great Hunt. 11.45 Film: The Three Musketeers. 12.05 News. 12.25 The Great Hunt. 12.45 Film: The Three Musketeers.

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PUBLIC NOTICES. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1977. The Secretary of State for the Environment has given notice that he proposes to make regulations under section 22 of the Act. 01-503 6455.

LEGAL NOTICES. IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE. The Registrar of Companies has received notice from the Liquidator of the company that the company is being wound up. 01-503 6455.

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LEGAL NOTICES. NEW TOWN ACT 1947. NOTICE OF THE DRAFT EASING UNDER SECTIONS 2 AND 5. THE DRAFT EASING NEW TOWN ACT 1947. AMENDMENT. ORDER 1977.

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